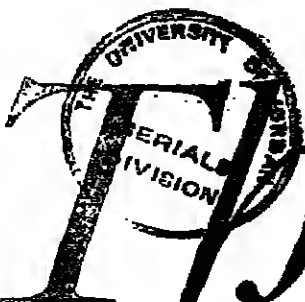


Wednesday May 20 1998

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INTERNATIONAL

The Guardian

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

The case of the US government v Microsoft

The battle of the Bills

G2 with European weather

Emma Forrest meets Elizabeth Wurtzel

From Prozac to Bitch

G2 page 4. Plus Francis Wheen

Environment

Robbing the tribes

Society, G2 pages 12-13

Cook sinks, Mowlam soars

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

THE troubled first year in office of the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, has so damaged his standing among the voters as Harriet Harman, according to today's Guardian/ICM opinion poll. The poll also shows that the public believes that the Minister without Portfolio, Peter Mandelson, should be left without a seat in the Cabinet as his reputation among the voters is currently even worse than that of Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor.

ratings also show that the leading lights of Tony Blair's Cabinet are extremely popular among the electorate with the Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, even outshining the Prime Minister himself. The publication of the poll coincides with speculation within the Government's own ranks that Mr Blair's first cabinet reshuffle could come within days rather than weeks. It is widely expected that the Public Services Minister, David Clark, and the Transport Secretary, Gavin Strang, face demotion from the Cabinet with Treasury minister Alistair Darling being among the front-runners to replace them.



ICM asked the voters whether they were satisfied with the job done by the 13 frontline cabinet ministers plus Mr Mandelson, who is widely considered to be knocking on the door. The results show that Ms Mowlam's plunge into the

complexities of the peace process while recovering from a brain tumour has impressed the voters most — even more than Mr Blair, whose approval ratings break all previous records for prime ministers in office. Ms Mowlam's +64 rating

represents 74 per cent of voters saying they are satisfied with the job she has done in the past year and only 10 per cent dissatisfied. Thirteen per cent said they did not have an opinion on her performance, indicating that she has been a highly

"visible" minister. The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, the Home Secretary, Jack Straw and the Education Secretary, David Blunkett, are among the most popular. Mr Blunkett's whose net satisfaction rate is +39 per cent places him among this leading group. Then comes a middle rank of cabinet ministers in terms of popularity. Leading this group is the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, with +25 per cent, followed by the Trade and Industry Secretary, Margaret Beckett, at +20 per cent — though she had a high "invisibility" factor with 39 per cent saying they had no opinion on her performance. Hard on her heels is Clare

Short (+19 per cent) but surprisingly she also shares a high "invisibility" rating with 43 per cent not able to rate her performance. A strong indication that Labour is in trouble over health comes with the low ranking of Frank Dobson who is regarded as a strong performer within Westminster. This is not shared among the voters who give him a net rating of only +13 per cent. Women are more hostile to Mr Cook than men, suggesting that the adverse publicity over his marriage break-up may also be a crucial factor in his fall from popularity. Although Labour voters continue to believe he is doing a good job by a margin of two to

one, Tory voters are highly critical with 69 per cent saying they are dissatisfied with his performance. Not even Harriet Harman, who is expected to be demoted to David Clark's post from her job in social security, excites quite such strong feelings among Tory supporters. Mr Mandelson will be dismayed to learn that he not only has a worse performance rating than Lord Irvine but he is also less "visible" than the Lord Chancellor in the public's mind. There is, however, a silver lining for the Minister without Portfolio — he appears to be popular among the young. The 18 to 24s were the only age group to say on balance he was doing a good job.

Heads together



Presidents Fidel Castro of Cuba and Nelson Mandela of South Africa at a ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of GATT, during the ministerial conference of the World Trade Organisation in Geneva yesterday. Analysis, page 11. PHOTOGRAPH: PATRICK AVOLAT

GPs offered crisis talks

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

A REBELLION by family doctors against the Government's plans to reform the National Health Service last night forced ministers to acknowledge the depth of concerns and offer talks on one of the key flashpoints. The move, which failed to impress doctors' leaders, came ahead of publication today of a study — based on the biggest consultation exercise in the history of the service — suggesting that doubts about the plans go well beyond GPs. With health ministers already on the rack over hospital waiting lists — certain to hit a record high tomorrow when the latest figures for England are announced — they cannot afford a full-scale clash over plans that were billed as saving the NHS and ending its internal market. Unless the row is defused, it could set off an acrimonious showdown at the GPs' annual conference next month, a week before celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the NHS.



The groups, which will replace the current commissioning roles of health authorities and fundholding doctors, are supposed to be established within the next two months.

Each is intended to represent a population of about 100,000. Although the British Medical Association was initially enthusiastic about the plans, grassroots resistance has forced it to become more sceptical and press for concrete assurances from ministers on questions being raised by its GP members. Chief among these are that the groups will take responsibility and blame for the rationing of health care; that GPs will end up dipping into their funds for running their practices to meet shortfalls in funding for their patients' treatments; and that the plans are being rushed in without proper thought and preparation. Alan Milburn, Health Minister, last night sought to placate the association's GP committee, which had demanded reassurances ahead of a meeting to page 3, column 7.

Nurses to be freed in days after Saudi pardon

Lucy Patton

TWO British nurses jailed in Saudi Arabia after the murder of a colleague are to be freed with a pardon by King Fahd, it was confirmed last night. Lucille McLauchlan and Deborah Parry, jailed in December 1996 after their arrest for the murder of Australian Yvonne Gilford, should be home in the next couple of days, the Saudi ambassador said in a statement in London last night.

Ghazi Alghosaidi's statement said: "In response to a petition from the families of the two British nurses convicted of murder in Saudi Arabia, the custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd bin Abdul-Aziz, issued an order commuting the sentence of the two nurses to the period they have already spent in jail and ordering their release. "According to the judicial laws of Saudi Arabia when the next of kin in a murder case waives the right to retribution, the court can impose a discretionary jail sentence which the king can commute. "This is what happened in this case. "I expect the two nurses to be back in the UK in the next couple of days."

Saudi police said Parry, aged 39, from Alton, Hampshire, who is unmarried, was having a lesbian relationship with Ms Gilford. Parry, police said, was the prime mover in the murder, and McLauchlan her accomplice. McLauchlan, aged 32, from Dundee, had left the

United Kingdom under a cloud after reports that she had been dismissed from a nursing post for misbehaviour — a suggestion her family was keen to scotch. McLauchlan had planned to marry her fiancé, Grant Ferrie, in February last year. The couple finally married in a Saudi courtroom complex in a "unique and unprecedented ceremony". This woman the British nurses were accused of murdering was described as "one of the last Florence Nightingales". Ms Gilford,

aged 55, arrived in Saudi Arabia to work as a senior theatre nurse several months before the Britons. She had worked around the world, and had reportedly moved to the Middle East because she believed it to be a safer place to live. It is known she befriended Parry and McLauchlan when they arrived, but little else of their relationship is known. Claims that she was involved in a lesbian relationship with Parry were vehemently denied by her brother, Frank Gilford.

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Sketch

Tossing a caber in the works



Simon Hoggart

THERE was a curious sombreness to the Scottish Questions yesterday. I don't know why. Hearts have just won the Scottish FA Cup — a great victory for a Scottish team, though probably the last major trophy the Scots will win this year.

No, it's all to do with the new assembly. Westminster now seems so irrelevant to the Scottish future. All those bitter arguments about minor road-widening schemes, planning permission for broken-down bottles — all will be swept away to the north. As Scots will discover soon, self-rule can be awfully dull.

John Maxton (Lab, Glasgow Cathcart) wanted to be assured that the assembly would contain "no funny costumes, in a multi-religious country no prayers, and now that the technology exists, electronic voting."

Where's the fun in that? It sounds like a weekly meeting of sales reps, without the laughs. Legislatures ought to have some funnery, some mumble-jumbo, a spot of timeless tradition, even if it has to be invented.

I would insist that every member of the assembly dresses in a kilt, the speaker wears wood like Mel Gibson in Braveheart, and I would institute a half-hour sermon at the start of every session, preferably by a hell-fire Wee Free preacher.

Instead of electronic voting, every member would have to toss a caber into the "Yes" or "No" lobby, while the clerks played bagpipe skirls. Parliaments need a bit of mystique, or else they might as well be PTA meetings.

The Tories had turned out in some force, though lacking any MPs who were elected in Scotland they had to come from the glens of Reigate, the moors of Beaconsfield and the lochs of south Cambridge-shire. One of their front-bench spokesmen, Nigel Evans, is a Welshman who represents a seat in Lancashire.

They came with a message, to be endlessly repeated: that the Scottish National Party is now ahead of Labour in Scotland's opinion polls (by five points), and could well be the governing party under devolution. And how long would the Union last then, eh?

As Andrew Robathan (Con, Blair) pointed out, Labour's Donald Dewar might — instead of becoming the first First Minister of Scotland — wind up as its first leader of the opposition. Wouldn't the SNP then use procedure to weaken the Union?

(Of course they would, cheered on by that large and growing minority of English people who support Scottish independence.)

Henry McLeish, the devolution minister, went all stiff and formal. "At the end of the day, the nation wants Parliament to work for them, not for any political party." Really? Scottish politics must have changed an awful lot in the past couple of weeks.

Calm MacDonald, another junior minister on the Scotland beat, tried a joke. Some Tory asked him to say there would be no nonsense about gender balance in the Scottish parties. This means having a system which requires as many women to be elected as men.

"The Opposition have managed gender balance with exactly zero," he said, to general confusion. What he meant was that, with none of their Westminster MPs elected in Scotland, the Tories had achieved a perfect balance between the sexes.

It was quite a good joke, but it had fallen to the ground like there, still and dead, as pitiful as a fledgling lost from the nest. I know the feeling well.

Review

Acting out poetry of fear and guilt

Michael Billington

Lyric, HammerSmith

ROBERT Lepage, the Quebecois magician, is a very much at home with music. This dramatisation of Mahler's setting of five poems on the death of children gives the songs an emotional context without destroying their musical power.

Mahler completed this song-cycle, based on poems by Friedrich Rückert, in 1904, three years before the death of his and Alma's elder daughter. Lepage's version suggests it is both eerily prophetic of the composer's own experience and a universal meditation on adult guilt, parental fear and childhood transcendence.

Lepage presents us from the start with a ghostly image: a room filled with shrouded furniture. Silently, the white dust covers disappear to disclose a mother and her flaxen-haired daughter. They are packing up their books to go to America. But, as we cut back in time to see the mother rehearsing Mahler's song-cycle with her pianist and as the bookcase is backlit to reveal the deck of a ship, we get a sense of something ominous. We know that the mother's difficulty with the songs presages the death of the child.

Lepage adds yet another dramatic layer by reminding us of Alma Mahler's injunction to her husband not to

"tempt the devil" by dealing with childhood death. Almost seamlessly, the singer and the pianist turn into Alma and Gustav performing the five songs that anticipate their own experience. What is fascinating is how deftly Lepage switches between the historic past and the living present.

It also means that by the time Rebecca Blankenship, initially overlaid with a black mourning veil, comes to deliver the songs we are prepared for their emotional content. The sight of Barriett Jones as the blithe, blond, innocent child adds to the sense of poignancy. Blake Morrison's subtitled translation of the Rückert poems helps us to grasp the meaning of what is being sung.

Giving music a dramatic context is always tricky. For me it didn't work with Neff Bartlett's relentlessly illustrative version of Britten's *Middle-aged Sonnets*. But it comes off here partly because Blankenship responds marvelously to the varied tone of the songs: in the one about two children out for a hillside walk she has exactly the right desperate gaiety. The hour-long piece is a visual context goes with the grain of Mahler's songs: there is both a Jamesian sense of omen and an awareness of the moral guilt, however unfounded, experienced by grieving parents.

This review appeared in some editions yesterday.

Tory leader horrifies party's Europhiles with outright rejection of integration in attack on single currency

Hague savages EU 'trap'

Michael White
Political Editor

TORY leader William Hague last night revealed the depth of his hostility to further European integration when he warned that the EU single currency represents "1950s solutions for the problems of the 1940s", and could wreck the stability of the entire continent.

"The single currency is irreversible. One could find oneself trapped in the economic equivalent of a burning building with no exits," he predicted in terms which delighted his Euro-sceptic supporters and horrified the beleaguered single currency wing of his party.

Speaking in Fontainebleau outside Paris, he argued that the post-war consensus in favour of economic, strategic and political integration in Europe was outdated in a globalised hi-tech world — along with the interventionist "big state" mindset which accompanied it.

In contrast to Tony Blair, who is courting EU leaders and British public opinion in favour of eventual membership of the euro, Mr Hague ended a day of talks with President Chirac and other French leaders by defiantly declaring in favour of "diversity, pluralism" and "the nation state".

In business and government, "we are in fact in the age of the small unit", he insisted. "Some say this speech

is another example of the British causing trouble... that European political integration is inevitable and that Britain must jump on board or miss the boat. I say to them that it is not inevitable."

In effect Mr Hague was deliberately using a speech, made in English to students at his old business school, to trample on EU orthodoxy. "Push political integration too far and accountability and democracy become impossible to sustain," he told students from 50 countries.

Moreover, the weaker the intellectual case for the euro becomes, "so those who advance the case have become more defensive", he asserted.

The speech prompted the leading Europhile Tory MP, Ian Taylor, who quit the front

bench over Europe, to denounce it as irrelevant, adding: "It sets the Conservative Party back." Euro-sceptics called it "spot on".

In the past 72 hours, pro-Europeans and former cabinet ministers Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine have given pre-emptive warnings to Conservatives not to reopen Euro-wounds which have begun to heal. Mr Hague has chosen to ignore them, instead giving vent to more Euro-sceptic views than the fragile shadow cabinet consensus had previously allowed him to risk.

The challenge for Europe is global free trade, flexible and competitive economies, and, above all, widening the EU to include the former Soviet bloc, he argued. Lady

Thatcher says much the same. Setting his party against the single currency — due to start for 11 of the 15 EU members on January 1 — Mr Hague predicted that its associated "one size, fit all" approach to interest rates would increase tensions between states.

He said integration would control national governments. Just as Asian states without a democratic safety valve have erupted in violence, so European elections are starting to show "disturbing signs of the rise of extremism", he said.

The nub of his critique is that 10 years after the cold war and 50 years after the second world war, Europe is stuck with outdated remedies

which the EU's "symbols and trappings of nationality" cannot hide. He saw European integration as a 1950s answer to the strife of the 1940s rather than the way forward in the 1990s.

"I do not believe a sense of political community in Europe will exist in my lifetime. But I am certain of one thing: if we establish common political institutions without, or at least before, such a sense develops, we will drive our people further apart."

There is a limit to European integration. We are near that limit now. Push political union beyond its limits and you jeopardise the very peace, stability and prosperity which Europe's post-war statesmen were so anxious to secure," Mr Hague declared.

Blair back in Ulster to seal peace poll

John Mulholland
Ireland Correspondent

TONY Blair will return to Northern Ireland today in a final scramble to seal victory for the Yes campaign at Friday's referendum on the Good Friday Agreement. He will stay overnight, and is expected to be joined by the Tory leader, William Hague.

Last night David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionists, and John Hume, leader of the SDLP, shared a platform — for the first time since the agreement was signed — at a concert at the Waterfront Hall in Belfast. They were given a rousing reception by 2,000 Protestant and Catholic children when introduced at the end of the concert which featured Ash, from Downpatrick, Co Down, and U2 from Dublin.

U2's lead singer, Bono, had earlier joined the two men in urging a Yes vote. He said to vote No was to play into the hands of extremists.

Mr Trimble said the aim was to show that centrist politics was the way ahead. "This concert is an excellent idea. It indicates the optimism in Northern Ireland now and it represents the mood of the future."

lan Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, was dismissive of the concert and pointed out that Bono had once burned the Union Flag on stage in the United States. He believed Mr Trimble and Mr Hume were likely to follow suit.

Mr Paisley said: "Mr Trimble has joined the pan-nationalist front. He is going to rock and roll. He is already rocking anyway, and he will be rolling after May 22."

Bob McCartney, the UK Unionist leader, said: "Mr Trimble and Mr Hume make very curious bedfellows. One

could call them the odd couple."

The latest opinion poll, the biggest yet, increased jitters among those pushing for a comfortable majority for the peace deal. The Belfast Telegraph and UTV poll put those voting Yes on 52 per cent, with 20 per cent opposed and a quarter undecided.

But the survey was carried out between May 8 to 10, before the appearance 10 days ago at Sinn Féin's conference of the Balcombe Street IRA gang, and before loyalist killer Michael Stone's attendance at a political rally. These

events have badly knocked the Yes lobby.

The Yes vote has dipped sharply since a Guardian poll, taken soon after the deal was struck, suggested that 73 per cent of voters were in favour, 14 per cent against and 13 per cent undecided.

The Irish Times last week found 56 per cent backing the deal, 25 per cent against and 19 per cent undecided. Its findings were in line with private polling for the Northern Ireland Office.

Mr Blair and Mr Trimble believe that anything less than a 70 per cent majority

for the deal would indicate Unionists split down the middle, and could signal gridlock in the proposed assembly.

The Belfast Telegraph poll indicated that Protestants were split three equal ways and Catholics were overwhelmingly in favour of the deal.

Mr Trimble, meanwhile, welcomed attempts by Jeffrey Donaldson, the Ulster Unionist MP whom Mr Blair had tried to woo back into the Yes campaign, to build bridges.

Mr Donaldson said he had no quarrel with Mr Trimble. He confirmed he would be

voting No but said he would rally around Mr Trimble's leadership as long as the party adopted a strong position against Sinn Féin taking its places in the power-sharing executive if the IRA failed to decommission its weapons.

Loyalists, meanwhile, were being blamed for a crude bomb attempt on a tourist office in Dublin. It contained ball-bearings and would have caused serious injury had staff failed to spot it.

Victim's mother, page 5; Jonathan Freedland, page 6

Tax-raising tactics backfire with rise in inflation

Mark Atkinson
Economics Correspondent

THE Government's attempts to damp down inflationary pressure by raising taxes were in danger of backfiring yesterday after they led directly to the highest rate of price increases for six years.

Although the Treasury insisted last month's leap in the annual rate of inflation to 4 per cent from March's 3.5 per cent was "temporary", there were fears that it could become a benchmark for wage bargainers, threatening a pay and price spiral.

"We thought there was some easing of pay pressure as inflation edged down earlier this year. But with this number, bargaining will be

nudged up for at least a couple of months," said Alastair Hatcher at pay experts Income Data Services.

Simon Briscoe, UK economist at finance house Nikko Europe, said: "The Chancellor's repeated statements about how private sector pay increases will lead to higher borrowing rates looks increasingly odd when it is his own policy decisions which are forcing up the RPI (retail prices index) and pay demands."

With the key high street components of the RPI, such as household goods and clothing, falling in April, the Office for National Statistics, which publishes the data, said the main reason for the rise in the headline rate of inflation was Budget tax changes.

Chief among these was the

Rising inflation

Annual percentage change



cut to 10 per cent from 15 per cent in mortgage tax relief pre-announced in last July's mini-Budget, which added 0.23 of a percentage point to

the increase in the annual rate of inflation.

Most of the rest of the rise was due to the Budget hikes in petrol duty, which also contributed to the increase in the underlying rate of inflation, excluding mortgage interest payments, to 3 per cent from 2.6 per cent.

In its quarterly Inflation Report, published last week, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which has day-to-day control over interest rates, anticipated the upward blip in the RPI but said the outlook over the next two years was benign.

Repeating the message yesterday, the Treasury said: "The temporary rise in inflation was expected this month. It's consistent with the Budget forecast and the short-

term impact of Budget tightening. Our forecast is for underlying inflation to fall back in July and to remain on track to meet the Government's inflation target over the forecast period."

However, City analysts said the MPC and Treasury would be privately worried about the danger of a continued climb in average earnings, already rising at almost 5 per cent a year.

Stephen Lewis, chief economist at London Bond Broking, warned that further interest rate rises were likely to stop the Government's 2.5 per cent target being breached. "Hopes for a 'soft landing' for the UK economy are now fanciful," he said.

The bad news on inflation was offset by separate ONS/Treasury figures showing a

surprisingly large debt repayment of £3.4 billion by the Government in April at the start of the new financial year, up from £389 million in the same month last year.

Although the year-on-year improvement partly reflected an erratically high debt repayment by public corporations, it was also due to continued tight control of public spending and buoyant tax receipts, pointing to an undershoot of the £2.5 billion budget deficit pencilled in by the Treasury for 1998/9.

Analysts said the Government's fiscal position was now on a sustainable long term path but cautioned that the rapid inflow of tax receipts added to overheating worries in the short term.

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مكتبة الامم

Students' double bluff



The Leeds art students in Cayton Bay, Scarborough, yesterday, their stand-in for Estrepona on the Costa del Sol

PHOTOGRAPHS: TONY BARTHOLOMEW and IAN BRADSHAW

Life, art and the Costa del Cayton

Martin Wainwright

LIFE — and art — isn't always what it seems. Yesterday, 13 students led the way to a windowless cabin where they had ingeniously recreated the Costa del Sol and triggered a national debate on art, morality and the youth of today.

The abandoned nightclub, named the Rendezvous, at Cayton Sands, just south of Scarborough, along with two bars and a private suburban swimming pool in Leeds had successfully hoodwinked six dons, 50 guests at an exhibition premiere and the local, national and international media.

Either in outrage or admiration, it was forgotten that the students had taken literally instructions to "come up with something thought-provoking" for their third-year Fine Art degree project. Given a £1,000 grant by Leeds student union, and collecting another £800 sponsorship, the 13 had supposedly formed an artistic ensemble called Going Places and skived off for a week at Estrepona as an example of "performance art."

"I did have my suspicions but in the wrong direction," said Leeds head of fine art Ken Hay. "When the exhibition opened in a room empty except for a video camera and a bowl of sangria, I thought they were going to film their lecturers getting drunk."

Instead, he and the other guests were taken by coach to Leeds-Bradford airport, to greet the alleged artistic holidaymakers, tanned, relaxed and coming out of Customs for a celebratory final round in the bar. In the general amazement, no one thought to check whether the group had been on the charter plane, or indeed whether there was a charter plane at all.

"Actually, we'd been holed up in our flats in Leeds for a week, only coming out in disguise in the evening," said Sarah Thornton, aged 23. "We hired a tanning bed and took turns on it, and found locations for convincing pictures."

The most graphic image, amid protests about taxpayers' money, was of the students lounging in the sun in front of an artistic 'Spanish mural'. "And here it is," said Sian Jones, making her way with Susannah Wesley and Christian Hersey across the Rendezvous's weedy forecourt. "Rather Gandhi, we think. At any rate it goes with the club's attempt at Yorkshire Spanish architecture and its rather Moorish tower. Another good thing about this is that it may bring more people to Cayton Sands. Art criticism is much too metropolitan and Scarborough's a really great place."

"Art should be available for everyone and this certainly has been," said John Crossley. "How many people would have come if we'd just held an ordinary exhibition?" Other Going Places members, like Jennifer Larkin and Matt Dunning, aired the age-old artist's complaint against commercialisation. They said: "All anyone seemed to care about was us supposedly wasting £1,800. In fact, we haven't spent any of it — it's all in a bank account earning interest, while we saved up for our trip to Scarborough."

Leeds student union, which initially led attacks on the "holiday" as disastrous for the university's image, was embarrassed but mollified at the prospect of the money coming back or going — in what Going Places considers a further extension of performance art — to appropriate charities. And the people who finally matter — the dons with their marking powers — were happy too.

"The whole thing has been masterly," said Mr Hay, after final nervous checks against the chance of a triple bluff. "They have got everyone talking about the very things — the nature of art and its relationship with life — which lie at the heart of the course."

They said they were here . . .

but they were actually here . . .

and yes, it really is art



Adrian Searle Art Critic

THERE is no gold standard in art any more. We can no longer come to an agreement about what's good and what isn't as there is no universal aesthetic.

What we see as wonderful art may not be wonderful in other cultures. Put a work of art elsewhere and it can seem meaningless. So we can only judge art now in terms of rigour and context.

What were its intentions and how do they relate to specifics of situation? If people are going on holiday and calling it art, why not? Leisure is a huge global industry and culture is in fact a part of that industry and a big tourist puller. So it is a natural topic for artists to explore and so far an unexploited one.

Historically, art students have always been iconoclastic. They have always played games with expectations and gestures are part of those games. So many universities are so pompous about their status and profile — it's fun to see a hoax pricking that balloon of pomposity.

These students are following in the spirit of spoofs, the fine tradition of Marcel Duchamp. They have pulled off a fantastic work, so much better than William Boyd's recent hoax of an unknown artist called Nat Tate. It has wrong-footed everyone and played games with expectations and prejudices.

Jakarta's protests at 'point of no return'

Andrew Higgins in Jakarta

BY THE time President Suharto shuffled across the red carpet of the presidential palace yesterday to announce that he would go — but only at his own leisurely pace — the former general who has ruled Indonesia since 1966 had already been deposed across town in parliament.

Students clamoured on to the domed roof, swarmed through the corridors and, in a debating chamber shorn of its mandatory presidential portico, took turns striding to the podium to declare themselves in charge.

Today, though, the country faces the real, and far less playful, test of who controls the capital of Jakarta and the 200 million people beyond.

Leaders of Indonesia's swelling but disorganised opposition have vowed to rally up to a million people in a capital scarred by mayhem last week and now studded with tanks and heavily armed troops still technically loyal to the president.

"He [Suharto] will be defeated very soon," said Amien Rais, head of the country's second largest Islamic organisation and the driving force behind today's demonstrations, which risk another — and possibly even more destructive — spasm of the violence that has claimed some 500 lives and wrecked 3,000 buildings.

Declaring that he was "more than ready" to replace Mr Suharto himself, Mr Rais said protesters "have reached the point of no return."

Indonesia's explosive crisis, triggered by more than three months of student protests, fuelled by mounting economic distress and inflamed by the shooting of six students last Tuesday at Trisakti University, is now careering towards a dangerous denouement.

For the students encamped yesterday in the vast parliamentary complex, though, the occupation of the political heart of President Suharto's so-called New Order regime was cause for joyous celebration. Tanks that had guarded the entrance only a day before had gone, leaving only a thin perimeter line of soldiers.

"No more corruption, collusion and nepotism. In the name of Allah we want a new president," declared a huge banner strung from two flagpoles on the green roof. Downstairs in the debating chamber they already had one. In fact, they had many, as students stepped to the podium, each with their own

agenda but united in calls for Mr Suharto, aged 76, to go.

Sitting in velvet armchairs reserved until yesterday for steadfast Suharto supporters, classmates watched as a uniformed student from the Maritime Academy danced a jig on a desk, and another did an impersonation of General Wiranto, defence minister, armed forces commander and the man who will today determine their fate — and possibly the president's.

The only emphatic vote of support yesterday for the president's televised promise of fresh elections came from dealers on the floor of the stock exchange, where the index stopped plunging to rise six percentage points.

At the University of Indonesia, the focus of student protests in 1966 that brought Mr

BRITONS joined the stampede of foreigners and ethnic Chinese to Jakarta's Sukarno International Airport yesterday after being warned by the British embassy in advance of today's protests to leave "while normal commercial means are available".

Britons urged out, page 15

Suharto to power, students crowded into the sport club to watch as he promised to set up a "reform cabinet" and hold new elections, but dodged the question of when.

His environment minister, Jowo Sudarsono, said later that a new parliament would come in three to six months.

"Too late," I don't believe him. I don't trust him any more," said Dewi Safrani, a 26-year-old student of advertising. "Maybe we should get rid of him constitutionally."

In the occupied parliament, students simply removed Mr Suharto's image, even from a conference room where seven representatives from the military's parliamentary faction were meeting visitors.

Major-General Ahmad Rostandi assured his audience the armed forces, known as Abri, wanted change. "There might be some differences of opinion but let's work this out . . . Don't push Abri so much. We agree on reform."

The students held up an Islamic prayer and handshakes. Moments later, a caretaker arrived carrying the banished president and put him back on the wall.

Leader comment, page 9

Doctors offered NHS crisis talks

continued from page 1

ing it is holding tomorrow. In a letter to John Chisholm, the committee's chairman, he said he recognised that "change brings concerns" and he was happy to offer certain guarantees.

The minister promised that GPs' independent contractor status would remain unaffected; that they would retain freedom to prescribe drugs and refer patients as they thought fit; and that any over-spending of a group's budget would be "managed within health authorities' general allocations" — authorities being the conduit for funding the groups.

On the issue of use of practice funds for patient care, once all money was in one pot, Mr Milburn proposed talks before next month's conference on a compromise which would "provide reassurance for GPs whilst maintaining the principle of a unified budget".

Dr Chisholm, who has warned that the BMA could call a ballot on the plans, expressed disappointment at the

letter. He said the reassurances went nowhere near far enough on a range of issues, particularly the failure to agree to "ring-fence" practices' funding for staff, premises and computers.

"The doctors I represent will be more fearful and angry about the adverse consequences for patient care in the absence of the urgent action from the minister which was requested," Dr Chisholm said.

Frank Dobson, Health Secretary, is due today to address a conference on primary care groups. The event is being organised by the NHS Confederation, which represents health authorities and trusts and which is publishing the study of health professionals' views on the Government's plans.

Karen Caines, director of the Institute of Health Services Management, said health managers were struggling to cope with what she called the "breakneck restructuring of the NHS" on top of pressure to cut waiting lists.

Shields lifts Orange Prize out of ghetto

Clare Longridge

THE best-selling Canadian novelist Carol Shields last night added the £20,000 Orange Prize for Fiction to her achievements when the award's judges plumped for the unusually safe choice of Larry's Party, the author's seventh book.

The women-only prize — sometimes characterised as a consolation for ghettoised

writers who need a leg-up in the overcrowded market — had been snubbed by the Nobel laureate Nadine Gordimer, who refused to allow her book The House Gun to be considered. Anita Brookner has also dismissed the notion of a women-only prize.

Of this year's shortlist, Shields least needs a helping hand. She won a Pulitzer Prize for The Stone Diaries, which was also shortlisted for the Booker.

Now 63, she grew up in Illinois but lives in Winnipeg. She wrote her first novel at 40. Larry's Party is about a man in mid-life crisis whose choices and confusions are expressed metaphorically in his passion for the mazes he designs for a living.

Guardian reviewer Laura Cumming wrote: "Larry has a mid-life crisis to match anything in Updike or Amis. His maze craze transforms into a business, he moves to affluent

Oak Park; the chablis is always chilled. Yet he suffers from low-lying woe. Hidden on the back wall of his retina is a quiescent caption in flowing script: 'How did this happen?'"

Spanning 20 years of Larry's life, the book has been described as a "lost and found odyssey for the late 20th century". Reviewers called it "bitterly funny" and "terribly poignant". Shields is the second North

American to win the prize, after Canadian poet Anne Michaels triumphed last year.

Only one British novelist, Pauline Melville, was short-listed, for her Whitbread Prize-winning first novel, The Ventriloquist's Tale. Other shortlisted authors were Kirsten Bakis for Lives of the Monster Dogs; Ann Patchett for The Magician's Assistant; Delia Purcell for Love Like Hate Adore; and Anita Shreve for The Weight of Water.

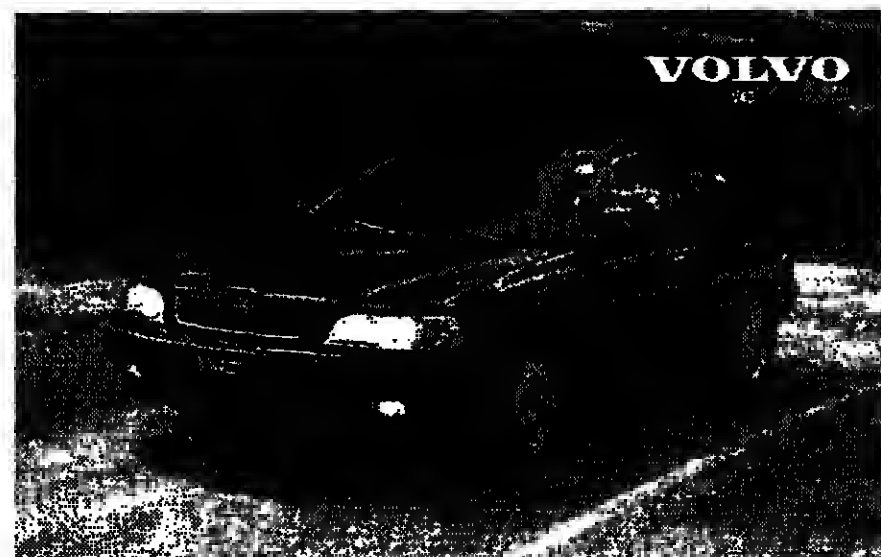


Carol Shields: 'safe choice'

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4 BRITAIN

Doctors given duty to explain

Sarah Boseley
Health correspondent

DOCTORS are to be held accountable for explaining to patients or their families what has gone wrong when a patient unexpectedly suffers damage or dies while in their care.

New guidelines from the General Medical Council, which are expected to be passed at its meeting today, will make it plain to doctors that they have a duty to discuss what has happened and if appropriate, offer an apology.

"These are standards against which doctors can expect to be judged," said Sir Donald Irvine, president of the GMC, yesterday. "Our general philosophy is openness and honesty."

The GMC says its guidelines go further than the law requires. Will and Diane Powell believe doctors covered up mismanagement of the illness of their son, Robbie, who died of Addison's disease eight years ago, at the age of 10. Their battle took them to the High Court, which ruled that although doctors were under a moral obligation to tell parents how their child died, they were under no legal obligation.

"Our new guidance recognises that doctors have wider professional and ethical responsibilities than the law requires," said Sir Donald.

"Patients have a right to expect that doctors will explain things to them fully and honestly, especially in the unlikely event that something goes wrong in their treatment. This is why we intend to make this an explicit responsibility for all doctors by including it in the new edition of our core guidance, Good Medical Practice."

But doctors will not be required to incriminate themselves if there is a possibility of criminal proceedings. They are urged to take out professional insurance, in case of claims against them.

The GMC is also instructing doctors to take part in audits of their success or failure in treating patients, and to improve their performance if it is lagging behind that of other doctors. This issue is at the core of the long-running case of the Bristol heart surgeons. The GMC's disciplinary committee is investigating allegations that the surgeons failed to take account of the fact that more of their child patients were dying during certain open heart procedures than at other hospitals.

The GMC's Standards Committee noted "some reservations about the practicability of this guidance; but felt that we should be seen to take the lead by setting the agenda for doctors, rather than wait for the Government to impose standards of this kind," its draft document says.

A new system for catching what the GMC calls dysfunctional doctors has already been instituted by the GMC. Doctors who are thought to be falling short can be referred to it for performance assessment. If they are found to be failing they can be referred for retraining or even, ultimately, struck off the register.

The changes the GMC is overseeing are radical, said Sir Donald. "This is a revolution in medicine. There will be a rocky ride in places, but good will come of it."

The future held more changes. Patients were already attempting to diagnose their own ailments, using the huge amount of information available on the Internet, and even naming the drugs they wanted their doctors to prescribe.

"I think we're only beginning to glimpse the impact it will have on our lives," he said. "It will put more power in the hands of the patient."

But the doctor/patient relationship would strengthen, he believed, as doctors would be able to interpret patients' information for patients.



Captain Richard Landall arriving for the court martial. He denies indecently assaulting and harassing two women. Right, Shelly Brazier, one of his alleged victims. PHOTOGRAPH BY NICK RAY

Army chaplain denies groping women

Rosalind Wiseman

THE first army chaplain to appear at a court martial yesterday denied groping and harassing two women.

A military court in Tidworth, Wiltshire, heard that Captain Richard Landall, who joined the army in 1992, had made several improper advances towards another, unnamed, woman in November 1997, seven months after his remarks to Mrs Brazier.

Capt Landall, aged 41, wrote to Shelly Brazier, 37, apologising for his "flirtatious nature" after her husband Sean, a fusilier with the 2nd Battalion Royal Regiment, banded him from their house at the Celle army base in Germany.

"I was deeply saddened to hear I had offended you with my whistling and innuendoes," he said. "I'm sorry for causing you any offence and embarrassment."

Lieutenant Colonel Roger Lewis, prosecuting, told the court Capt Landall, who turned up at the woman's house when she was watching a video with one of her children.

"She bent down to change the video and as she did so, the padre knelt beside her and inserted his hand into the back of the fogging trousers she was wearing and put his hand into her knickers," said Lt Col Lewis.

That night he slept on the couple's sofa and then sent a postcard apologising and pointing out that he was distressed and upset because his own marriage had broken up.

The court heard on another occasion he rubbed his groin against her as she bathed her children. And less than a week later, Capt Landall turned up at the woman's house when she was watching a video with one of her children.

"She bent down to change the video and as she did so, the padre knelt beside her and inserted his hand into the back of the fogging trousers she was wearing and put his hand into her knickers," said Lt Col Lewis.



As he did this, her friend arrived and saw the two of them there. The padre made some excuse to leave.

Mrs Brazier, who is deeply religious, told the hearing she had gone to see the padre because she needed to find a church to go to.

As time went on she said he had shown more interest than she felt comfortable with. He told her she was beautiful and said he liked redheads.

Mr Brazier told the court that the padre had "sickened" him while they were serving in Bosnia. "He commented on my wife's hair and asked me if she was a natural redhead," he said.

"I said she had dyed her hair so many times it was difficult to tell. What he insinuated was, was she a natural redhead down there?"

When Capt Landall returned to Germany he visited Mrs Brazier twice. On the second occasion, he talked to her at some length about his own marital difficulties, using filthy language, the prosecutor said.

He said it was a shame he did not have a wife like her and described how he had found some underwear of his wife's which Mrs Brazier would have looked lovely in.

She decided to complain but as she walked along the road with her husband and friends

she heard a wolf whistle and a cry of "Hello gorgeous". The padre was driving past in his car.

Mrs Brazier told the court that Landall did not act like she believed a man of God should. "I would have liked to see him more godly. I found that he was offensive," she said.

Capt Landall denies four charges of indecent assault and one charge of harassment towards the unnamed woman.

He also denies harassing Mr and Mrs Brazier, and of conduct to the prejudice of good order by undue familiarity towards Mrs Brazier.

The hearing continues.

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Gallery reopens with art to satisfy palate

David Ward

THE Tate Gallery in Liverpool has been closed for more than a year and Adrian Henri, Scouser, poet and art critic, has missed out of my life," he said yesterday as he mooched round the refurbished and enlarged gallery which opens on Saturday.

"I live just up the hill and I had got used to dropping in."

Ignoring the groans of a mannequin under a sofa in a work by Tony Oursler called The Most Beautiful Thing I've Never Seen, he suggested he was surprised by the extra space created on four floors of the former bonded warehouse at the Albert Dock.

"The staff have learned a lot from doing audience surveys," he said. "On the one hand, people want innovation and on the other they want to see their old favourites." The



Mark Dion defied logic with his work SOS, half a trawler sinking through the floor. PHOTOGRAPH: DON MCFARLANE

Liverpool Tate opened in 1988 and attracted 5 million visitors in nine years, way above predictions and a strain on the poky tea room on a mezzanine floor.

The top floor has been converted and space has been opened up on other floors to bring an extra 30 per cent of the building into use. The café has been moved to the

ground floor and spills out on to the docks. The gallery is preparing for 800,000 visitors this year and a million in 2000.

The Tate here started out as an austere and high-minded place which served enthusiasts of high art. But staff found they had a family audience coming in. They realised that priorities have

changed and they have faced up to them," said Mr Henri.

The renovation and expansion has cost nearly £7 million, with £3.8 million donated by the Heritage Lottery Fund, and the opening coincides with the launch of art transpennine, an 11-week show of international contemporary art stretching in and out of 30 galleries and other spaces from Liverpool to Hull. Organisers say that at 130 miles it will be the longest exhibition of its kind.

The £2.5 million show, presenting the work of more than 50 international artists, has attracted £1.7 million in lottery money and has been hailed as an example of how the nation's bi-weekly flutter can fund creative work and buildings to hang pictures in.

Exhibits include Taro Chi-zo's Super Lunch Banana, installed near the Liver Building at the Pier Head. The Tate's top floor is given over to six other art transpennine works, including one which is edible. Untitled (Portrait of Dad) by the late Felix Gonzalez-Torres is a pile of sweets representing the weight of the artist's father. Visitors are encouraged to take one and stocks will be replenished, ensuring the crucial mass is maintained.

Mark Dion has defied logistics to install SOS, half a trawler sinking through the floor surrounded by symbolic flotsam and jetsam.

For the reopening, the Tate has brought from London its collection of Cubist art — 40 paintings, sculptures, drawings and collages by masters such as Braque and Picasso.

Boy George announces film of his life

Dan Glaister on an attempt to give the big screen treatment to a 1980s music icon

WEARING delicate mascara, eye shadow and just a dab of blusher, a familiar and still glamorous figure popped up in Cannes yesterday. Yes, it was Boy George, here among the cigar chomping moguls, sharks and wheeler-dealers to announce the forthcoming film version of his life story.

"There will be lots of sex, drugs and hair," 36-year-old Boy George told a press conference. "It will be like Valley of the Dolls but with

a happy ending. The film will show sex, growing up in suburbia, getting rich quickly and the pitfalls of fame."

Take It Like A Man, based on his autobiography, is being made by BBC Films in association with an as yet unnamed foreign partner for around £5 million. With first time director Kfir Yefet, the film will begin production later this year.

The feature, whose story will start in 1973, coincides with a revival of Culture

Clinh, Boy George's chart topping group of the 1980s. The band has reformed and is to tour in the US and release a new album.

Boy George's book aroused controversy when it was published and led to a court case between the author and Kirk Brandon, a contemporary and former singer.

Boy George alleged in the book that the two had been lovers, an account denied by Brandon, who issued a writ for malicious falsehood. Brandon lost the court case.

"Kirk will feature in the film," Boy George said yesterday. "But he will probably be an amalgam of sev-

eral characters. As far as I am concerned I won the case, and that matter is settled."

Other characters who have fallen out with George in the past will also feature in the film, which promises to pull no punches in its depiction of his journey from growing up in south London to finding stardom and eventually beating heroin addiction.

The cast, however, has yet to be decided. Co-producer Erica Spellman-Silverman said: "We want very much to try to discover somebody new. It is very important the audience comes in and sees George, not an actor."

Cracks found in glass roof of £120m station built for Eurosta

Child

C

Teen

Single

Larry Ward Political Correspondent

J

سكربت الامل

Cracks found in glass roof of £120m station built for Eurostar

The serpentine roof of Waterloo International, completed five years ago

PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEASER



REPAIRS to the home of Eurostar, the award-winning £120 million Waterloo International station, could lead to the vast glass roof being replaced five

years after it was built, construction industry sources confirmed last night. Most of the 30,000 passengers who use the London station each day have failed to notice the white tarpaulins that have been fixed under the roof along the length of the concourse.

They are to protect them against possible injury after cracks were discovered in glass panels overhead. The station's owner, London and Continental Railways, admitted: "A routine inspection detected that a small number of panels were cracked. The tarpaulins are

there to protect rail users from the unlikely event of falling glass." Ove Arup, the consulting engineers, is investigating the cause. Yesterday it declined to comment but said its report should be complete within weeks.

According to the Contract Journal today, the cracks could have been caused either during maintenance work or by defects in the glass, known as nickel sulphide inclusions. Industry sources said that if defects were confirmed, it was possible that all 10,000 square metres of glass panels would need replacing. The

sources said that the microscopic defects, usually triggered by rapid changes in temperature, could cause panels to fail unpredictably. London and Continental said it was "prepared to do whatever is necessary" to repair the roof, but would not comment ahead of the report.

The graceful glass and steel roof, supported on a network of tubular trusses, is the crowning glory of the magnificent 400 metre long station. Its spacious and spectacular building is designed to cater for up to 6,000 passengers an hour during peak periods. The terminal handles interna-

tional rail traffic between London, Paris and Brussels through the Channel tunnel. The station's architect, Nicholas Grimshaw and Partners, won a Royal Institute of British Architects award for excellence for its design. The firm would not comment yesterday.

Children 'losing touch with their grandparents'

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

CHILDREN from middle class families are losing touch with their grandparents because of their parents' time and work pressures and because extended families increasingly live far apart. The number of young middle class parents who see their own mothers at least once a week has dropped almost 20 per cent since the mid-1980s to fewer than four in 10, a survey today says. The survey report, published by the Family Policy Studies Centre, says the number seeing their fathers each week has fallen 15 per cent to barely a third. The trend is also evident in telephone contact. Fewer

than half the middle class parents surveyed said they spoke to their fathers by telephone at least weekly — again, a 15 per cent fall since the mid-1980s. But contact, both visiting and telephoning, within working class families has remained unchanged or risen. The report says geographical separation explains the findings in part. The number of middle class workers with children who lived more than an hour's journey from their parents was found to have risen 12 per cent since the mid-1980s. Although most young parents were found to be still in regular contact with their immediate family, the number reporting weekly visits by or to their mothers had dropped to 50 per cent from 63 per cent in 1986.

Those saying they saw their fathers each week had fallen from 52 per cent to 45; those who saw an adult brother or sister — the children's uncle or aunt — had slipped from 51 per cent to 45. Among non-manual workers, the number seeing their mother and father each week had dropped respectively from 58 per cent to 39 and from 51 to 36. Among manual workers the equivalent proportions had risen from 62 per cent to 65 and from 54 to 58. The research, supported by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, was carried out among more than 2,000 people who took part in the wider British Social Attitudes survey in 1996. Their responses were compared with those of a comparable sample from 1986.

Distance limits elderly Scottish grandmother to one visit each year

FOR Sue Block, aged 42, a modern languages teacher and former merchant banker, seeing her mother is an annual occurrence: restricted to a week at Christmas when the 80-year-old travels to her daughter's home in Exeter, Devon, writes Sarah Hall. But the two women — who speak each week on the telephone — are separated not by acrimony, but distance. For Sue's mother — the only grandparent of



Sue Block with James and Amanda. PHOTOGRAPH: GUY NEWMAN
her children, James, aged 10, and Amanda, 13 — lives 450 miles away in Helensburgh, outside Glasgow. Sue, who relished growing up next door to her maternal grandmother, said: "I only see my mother once

a year... She is quite elderly now and finds it difficult to travel so she comes down less often. "It is a long distance for us to travel, as well, but I do speak to her each week — and feel really quite guilty if I miss that." She added: "I do feel the burden of keeping an eye on her falls on my older sister, who lives in the same town as my mother." She regrets that her children see so little of their grandmother. "I do think it's quite sad for my children — particularly since my mother is their only surviving grandparent. I wouldn't say they hardly know her, but there just isn't that closeness. "I do know she misses them terribly, as well." The distance from her

mother was an inevitable result of pursuing her career. "I went to university in Scotland but, when I graduated, I moved to London for job reasons: I knew I wanted a profession in banking, the job opportunities in the west of Scotland were very limited. "When the children were young we decided we wanted to bring them up in the west country." The question of returning to Scotland did not arise. "I'd just trained as a teacher and wouldn't have been able to teach there." She added: "I do regret not being able to see my mother more often. The ideal situation would be where you're not in each other's pockets, but you're close enough for regular visits."

Teenage victim's mother urges yes vote



Despite anger at the campaign to free her son's convicted army killers, Jean McBride sees the agreement as Ulster's way ahead

John Mullin on a grieving woman's fury she will put aside for the sake of her surviving daughters and 10 grandchildren

JEAN McBride will stop off at the Christian Brothers' Edmund Rice school near her home on her way to the High Court in Belfast on Friday. She will vote yes to the Good Friday agreement, then go on to learn the fate of the British soldiers who killed her son.

Mrs McBride, 46, is angry. She feels that a high profile campaign, which includes independent MP Martin Bell, for the release of Scots Guardsmen Mark Wright and James Fisher is misrepresenting the facts surrounding the shooting of her only son Peter, 18, in September 1992. But she is prepared to see the soldiers freed. Mrs McBride said yesterday: "They should come out, but only on the same terms as all the other prisoners serving time for crimes committed during the troubles. They should not get any preferential special treatment. What they did to Peter was cold-blooded murder." The accelerated release programme proposed under the agreement means that paramilitary prisoners still in jail in two years time will be released on licence, so long as the organisations they belong to remain on ceasefire. The

two soldiers would have served eight years if the same standard is applied to them. Mr Justice Coghlin will announce on Friday whether the pair's plea for parole should be heard before October, the date set last year by Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary. That was already well ahead of usual practice, but they applied for judicial review. Four soldiers have been convicted of murder while on duty in Northern Ireland. Nineteen have been charged. Security forces have killed 400 people during 30 years of the troubles. At a meeting in Brussels the ministers rejected calls from Ireland, Germany and France for further studies to assess the impact of abolition, originally agreed in 1991 as part of harmonisation of tax levels across the 15 member states. The ministers agreed only that individual states would be able to conduct their own impact studies while the European Commission — which has been pressing for the end of duty free sales — would draw up a report on

how badly hit areas could seek EU funding to cushion the blow. A Commission spokeswoman welcomed the decision saying: "It is a reaffirmation of what was decided unanimously in 1991. A general review of the decision now would not have been useful." The meeting was chaired by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, who told reporters that abolition was a decision made by the previous Tory government. But during the meeting Britain did not challenge the view of most other member states that abolition should not be reconsidered. Pressure for abolition has come mainly from the Commission which argues that duty free is a tax anomaly benefiting only the minority of citizens who travel abroad by plane or ship. There is annoyance in

Brussels that duty free operators have had seven years to prepare for the end but have instead lobbied to be allowed to retain their markets and threatened the loss of jobs. The Duty Free Confederation, funded by port and airport operators, transport trade unions, airlines and ferry companies promised to continue the fight. They claim up to 140,000 jobs across the EU will be put at risk if the practice is abolished. A small demonstration of workers from the industry demonstrated outside the council of ministers' buildings. Charlie McCreavey, the Irish finance minister, who has been pressing for a review, said: "The decision to abolish duty free is going to lead to a loss of jobs and will be devastating to small airports. "We will continue this battle to the very end."

Single parents to be offered care jobs

Lucy Ward, Political Correspondent

JOBLESS lone parents will be recruited to a new army of playworkers as part of a huge expansion in childcare to help thousands of working parents. The Government's national childcare strategy, unveiled yesterday, sets out plans for high quality, affordable and accessible care for children up to 14 throughout England. The package — backed by £200 million over five years for after-school clubs — met warm approval from childcare campaigners. But there were warnings that the promise of new places for up to a million children must be backed up with continuing resources to provide training needed to help guarantee quality. Ministers see the plan as supporting children's educa-

tion, allowing parents to balance work and family life and boosting the economy by enabling more adults to train and eventually enter work. They also want to encourage unemployed single parents to train as playworkers. According to the green paper, "parents are a key potential source of childcare and playworkers." Childcare groups estimate some 80,000 new workers will be needed to staff out-of-school clubs, which are due to expand by some 40,000 places in 1998/9. The green paper pulls together a raft of government pledges, among them plans to underpin expansion of provision by tightening up on regulation of childcare providers. The Minister for Women, Harriet Harman, launching the paper yesterday with the Education and Employment Secretary, David Blunkett, stressed the "patchy quantity

and quality" of childcare around the country. Local education authorities will be charged with assessing demand for childcare places in their areas and drawing up plans to meet needs. Mr Blunkett said the plans would also offer safety to children who would otherwise be "latchkey kids" as more families had two working parents. The childcare campaign group Daycare Trust welcomed the plans, but warned that the expansion of childcare places must not be at the expense of quality. Trust director Collette Keeler also joined calls for funding to pump-prime new childcare provision in disadvantaged areas. The Conservatives branded the proposals "all style and no substance", and the Lib Dems called for a statutory registration scheme for childcare workers.



Michelle Treasure and her son Kayle, who started nursery school at eight months. PHOTOGRAPH: KIPPA MATTHEWS

EU duty free sales to end

Stephen Bates in Brussels

THE abolition of duty free sales at ports and airports across the European Union appears certain to go ahead from July next year after EU finance ministers reaffirmed the decision despite heavy lobbying from the industry. At a meeting in Brussels the ministers rejected calls from Ireland, Germany and France for further studies to assess the impact of abolition, originally agreed in 1991 as part of harmonisation of tax levels across the 15 member states. The ministers agreed only that individual states would be able to conduct their own impact studies while the European Commission — which has been pressing for the end of duty free sales — would draw up a report on

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Ministerial mission to Iran planned

Ian Black
Diplomatic Editor

BRTAIN is considering sending a Foreign Office minister to Iran for the first time since the 1979 revolution in an effort to improve relations against Salman Rushdie, the Guardian has learned.

If final approval is given, Derek Fatchett, the minister responsible for the Middle East, could visit Tehran before the end of Britain's European Union presidency on June 30, signalling appreciation by both London and Brussels of President Mohsen Khatami's positive new attitude to the West.

Behind the plan lies Britain's wish to encourage the moderate Shi'ite cleric in his struggle against hardline opponents. But Foreign Office sources insist any talks would have to raise concerns about Mr Rushdie, Iran's support for terrorism and its nuclear ambitions.

Derek Plumbly, the Foreign Office director for the Middle East, was due to meet a senior Iranian official in Brussels yesterday to nail down an agreed European Union-Iran agenda for enhanced political contacts.

With the outcome of Monday's EU-United States summit in London ending the threat of American sanctions against companies trading with Iran, British firms will want to see better relations.

Cultural ties between Britain and Iran have been quietly but deliberately encouraged by both governments in recent months.

But a ministerial visit would be a big leap forward for the only EU member which does not have an ambassador in Tehran and is attacked by Iranian hardliners in the same breath as the US.

British perceptions have changed dramatically since President Khatami came to power in August. Whitehall believes he is working to stop terrorism abroad by agents of Iran's ministry of intelligence services, which is controlled by factions close to the coun-

try's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Khamenei.

"The feeling is that the time is right to move things forward in the hope that nothing happens to set things back," one well-placed British source said. "We want to build on the favourable atmosphere generated by Khatami's election, though without any illusions that he controls everything."

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, has used the EU presidency to find an alternative to the Union's "critical dialogue" — suspended last year after Tehran was implicated in terrorist killings in a Berlin restaurant.

In February the EU lifted a ban on ministerial visits, although some British officials have argued that it might be preferable to send a senior diplomat rather than a minister, and only after the end of the EU presidency.

The Rushdie affair remains the most difficult part of any rapprochement. Iran's leaders have made it clear they will not send anyone to kill the writer, condemned to death because of alleged blasphemy in the *Satanic Verses*. But they insist the *fatwa* issued by the late Ayatollah Khomeini in 1989, cannot be revoked.

Recent efforts have focused on cancelling the \$2.5 million (£1.5 million) reward offered by the late 15th Khordad Foundation for anyone who carries out the edict. Carmel Bedford, spokesperson for the International Rushdie Defence Committee, said: "If a British minister is going to visit Iran on behalf of the EU we would be delighted. But we would expect him to fulfil the commitment to demand the withdrawal of this bounty money as a prerequisite for improved relations."

A US official said on Monday that a British ministerial visit to Iran would be premature. "The jury's still out on where this Iranian government is heading. There are many positive signals but also a lot of things that cause us much concern, especially on terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. And we and the UK see the same things."

Cook visits shot Turkish activist to highlight human rights concern

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, last night highlighted British and European Union concern about Turkey by visiting a leading human rights activist shot and seriously wounded last week by an unknown gunman, writes Ian Black in Ankara.

No one has been arrested for the attack on Akin Birdal, the head of Turkey's Human Rights Association. He was shot six times in the chest and leg at his office after leaks to the press linked him to separatist Kurdish guerrillas. The association denies

any connections to rebels. Mr Cook went to see Mr Birdal in hospital after a day of talks designed to persuade Turkey to attend a key meeting next week in Brussels. He said he was not disappointed by Ankara's refusal to give a firm commitment.

Mr Birdal, also deputy chairman of an international rights group, has been an outspoken critic of rights abuses in Turkey and has accused the state of conducting a "dirty war" against Kurdistan Workers' Party rebels in the south-east.



Lillian Ross with the late New Yorker editor William Shawn. In her book, *Here And Not Here*, she writes that their affair was an open secret. They even adopted a child together.

Editor's double life shocks NY

A reporter's memoir of her 40-year affair with William Shawn has demolished his saintly image, writes Joanna Coles

AT FIRST GLANCE neither the dustjacket nor the title gives much away. Instead, the cover of *Here And Not Here* features a photograph of a plump, middle-aged man, starting into the middle distance. His fedora, roosting at a jaunty angle, hints perhaps at some deeper eccentricity, and the subtitle, *A Love Story*, lends another clue.

But once past the first paragraph there is no doubting the explosive contents of a book that is riveting literary New York, and which will change forever the public perception of William Shawn, the legendary editor of *The New Yorker* who died in 1992.

Indeed, it is hard to think of another editor with such a reputation among both writers and readers. A stickler for detail and manners — he once tracked down a writer in the jungle to ask if he could change a

comma — he sharpened his blue pencil at the magazine's offices in West 43rd Street for 35 years. But his image as the bookish, almost saintly, editor whose life was dedicated to the magazine and his wife of 64 years has been shot down for good. This month, in a controversial memoir, his lover Lillian Ross blows the lid off their 40-year affair.

Though among friends the affair between the editor and one of the magazine's reporters was an open secret — they even adopted a son together — it was never alluded to either in the office or in public. Ms Ross's decision to bare her soul so dramatically has surprised many.

As yet, publicity for the book has been cautious. Random House, the publisher, has sent out a tiny number of galley-copies, which have been changing hands at a furious rate.

The book's title comes from Shawn's description to Ms Ross of his home life. "I am there but not there," she says he told her. She says he was no prig; rather he burned with an "alarming" sexual energy while managing a bizarre double life that allowed him to spend every night with his wife but to take breakfast, lunch and usually supper with his mistress.

He would also spend Christmas Eve with Ms Ross (she turned her drawing room into a replica of his family room to make him more comfortable). But he reserved Christmas Day and Thanksgiving for his wife Cecile and their children Wallace, an actor, Allen and Mary, who was born with brain damage.

"Our apartment is located about half a mile south of the one he lives in with his wife Cecile," Ms Ross explains on page three, mentioning her for the first time. "He and I had agreed we would not keep our liaison a secret from Cecile."

"When Bill told her about it they talked for weeks and then for months with each



The actor Wallace Shawn, one of William Shawn's three children with his wife of 64 years, Cecile

other, an agonising time for both of them, and then she made her unshakable decision: she would stay in the marriage and he would make the logistical arrangements with her that our life together called for."

Some writers are questioning Ms Ross's motives for writing the book while Mrs Shawn is still alive.

"It's about possession of the man," said one New Yorker contributor. "I think Mrs Shawn will be desperately upset, as will Wally. It's very upsetting for them indeed."

Another adds: "I think the question she should be asking herself is, is this what William Shawn would have wanted?"

But yesterday Ms Ross said she thought Shawn would approve, and that he had often told her he was tired of being caricatured.

"We talked about it... I liked everything I wrote," she said. Asked if she thought Mrs Shawn would be upset, she replied: "I don't think that's a factor. Her children all love her and I say very clearly in the book that Bill loved her."

She insists the book is very much her own love story. "I've been thinking about writing it for a long time; it's my life."

Dedicating the book to Shawn, she begins chapter one: "All enduring love between two people, however startling or unconven-

'It's about possession of the man. I think Mrs Shawn will be desperately upset, as will Wally. It's very upsetting for them indeed'

tional, feels unalterable, predestined, compelling, and intrinsically normal to the couple immersed in it, so I would have to say that I had an intrinsically normal life for over four decades with William Shawn, the late editor of the New Yorker. We loved each other. We remained in love with each other until the day he died, unexpectedly, on December 8, 1992.

"We signed off every phone call, every casual parting, every good night including that of the night before his death, with I love you. From the first instance of his open declaration of love, Bill Shawn continued to say it, and to make me feel his love."

Menace behind army kingmakers

Kidnappings and torture reveal the military's sinister side, Andrew Higgins in Jakarta writes

AS THOUSANDS of students swarmed across Indonesia's parliament building yesterday, soldiers in green berets stood stoically in the sun and ushered new arrivals through the gates with polite nods.

But behind the trim professionalism of troops in the streets and the soft-spoken cool of General Wiranto, the country's senior commander, lurks a parallel world — menacing, opaque and possibly more powerful.

This is the world inhabited by the two unidentified men who confronted a Jakarta lawyer, Desandi Mahesa, the director of the Jakarta chapter of the National Legal Aid Institute, as he got off a minibus near the Indonesian Christian Students' Association on his way home from work in February.

They pulled a pistol, bundled him into a car and shoved a hood over his head. To muffle street noises outside they turned up the volume of the car stereo.

They drove for nearly an hour and then deposited Mr Mahesa at his destination: a tiled building with six tiny rooms and a television camera in the hall. Beaten and



Protesting students crowd the steps and roof of the parliament in Jakarta yesterday. "Tomorrow we'll go to the presidential palace," said one

given electric shocks upon his arrival by men in "green uniforms" and others in bath shirts, he spent the next two months there.

It was a very different venue from the one chosen by Gen Wiranto on Monday night to present the public face of Indonesia's security forces. Under the glare of television lights he sat at a long table and the sounds of a bugle and the shouts of a satay pedlar. "From the type

of building and the people in it, all I can say is that it was a very neat organisation," said Mr Mahesa, one of at least 15 anti-government activists kidnapped in recent months.

The military has denied involvement in the kidnappings, but Mr Mahesa's testimony, and that of another freed victim, Plus Lustrilang, reveal the shadowy forces that operate beyond the scrutiny of cameras, the law and possibly

even commanders such as Gen Wiranto. The gulf between the public and hidden side of Indonesia's security forces confounds attempts to decipher the manoeuvring in an organisation that embraces anonymous operatives with pistols and sophisticated officers with degrees from American military academies and first-name friendships from joint exercises



Gen Wiranto, the army's senior commander (above), and his more hardline rival for power, Gen Prabowo



with the Australian armed forces.

It has become axiomatic that the military will determine President Suharto's fate. But which side of the military? For many, the split personality is represented by the differing personalities and style of Gen Wiranto and his most notorious rival, President Suharto's son-in-law and former special forces commander, Gen Prabowo

Suharto, head of the strategic reserve command.

Gen Wiranto, the older of the two, is regarded as a relative moderate. He has tried to accommodate demands for reform from the street and campuses, while declaring his loyalty to Mr Suharto, whom he once served as adjutant.

Gen Prabowo strikes a far more macho pose. He prefers the swagger of the Kopassus Regiment, the elite corps of special forces he led until earlier this year and which he commanded with ruthless zeal against pro-independence rebels in East Timor. He speaks fluent English, having done part of his schooling in Britain, but is far more at home in the muscular vernacular of intrigue and force.

There is widespread suspicion, though no hard evidence, that Gen Prabowo may have played a role in a decision to use live ammunition against student demonstrators at Trisakti University last Tuesday — a decision that cost six lives and sparked the riots last week in which more than 500 died and thousands of buildings were wrecked. Similar allegations surrounded his conduct in East Timor, where provocation and kidnapping formed an important part of an often brutish campaign to pacify the former Portuguese colony invaded by Indonesia in 1975.

But reports of a rift at the summit of Indonesia's military, steadfastly denied by Gen Prabowo himself, may derive less from the current organisation that has all levels with different methods.

When Mr Mahesa was dumped him at the capital's airport with a ticket for Banjarmasin, his home town in

East Kalimantan on Borneo. He agreed to keep quiet in return for his freedom. His captors concocted a cover story: he was to tell anyone who asked that he had been away on a research project in Irian Jaya, the easternmost and poorest part of the country.

For more than a month, he stuck to the story. But when unidentified men started making menacing visits to his family and friends, he broke cover and Gen Wiranto ordered an investigation into the kidnappings and assured the safety of anyone providing evidence.

Mr Lustrilang, another freed kidnap victim, had fled to the Netherlands and then to the United States, where he testified to the US Senate.

"I am afraid but the head of the army has offered to guarantee my safety," Mr Mahesa said. "If this is true or not we will see. I hope this guarantee is not just a bluff. Whether I die will be the proof."

The mass protests scheduled for today put the armed forces to the same test on a dangerously grand scale.

Gen Wiranto has urged that the rallies be called off, but has promised to let them go ahead so long as they remain orderly.

Whether this is possible will depend on taming the darker side of a security establishment that excels in infiltration and provocation. Adnan Buyung Nasution, a prominent lawyer and government critic, fears the kidnappings show the potency of such forces. "Although they often wear civilian clothes, they do not show their face. They are always under cover. It is clear they are well organised."

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Mexicans stunned by US drug arrests

Phil Gannon in Mexico City

THE Mexican government, stunned by revelations that the country's biggest banks are involved in laundering drug money, yesterday promised a "full co-operation" with Operation Casablanca, the United States' massive anti-drugs sweep which has netted more than 130 suspects so far. More arrests are said to be imminent.

Jose Angel Gurria, the finance minister, said: "The Mexican authorities will do everything to punish those guilty of committing crimes in Mexican territory, as well as to continue the fight against this part of the drug-trafficking chain."

The statement came a day after the US charged staff from some of Mexico's biggest banks with involvement in laundering US drug profits reaped by Colombian and Mexican drug lords.

Twenty-two middle-ranking Mexican bankers were held at the weekend after a three-year operation, about which the Mexican authorities were never informed.

According to the US attorney-general, Janet Reno, and the treasury secretary, Robert Rubin, another 112 people had been arrested and \$55 million (£24 million) seized, along with two tonnes of cocaine and four tonnes of marijuana.

It was not only the most extensive operation mounted against the money-launderers but the first in which Mexican bankers had been shown to be "directly linked to laundering the Cali and Juárez cartels' drug profits", the US said.

At least another 40 arrests are anticipated, along with the seizure of another \$10 million in US accounts held by Mexican banks.

Among the banks whose employees are involved are Bancomer, Serfin and Confia, all of whose US operations are now under official supervision. Confia has just been bought by Citibank, itself the subject of a separate money-laundering inquiry.

Despite the much-vaunted co-operation between US and Mexican authorities in combating the cartels, the Mexican government — as well as the banks concerned — were

kept in the dark, in what amounts to a resounding vote of no-confidence.

No mention was made of Operation Casablanca at any of the meetings of the "high-level contact group" set up over two years ago to co-ordinate anti-drugs operations between the two countries.

The Mexican attorney-general's office, the leading anti-drugs agency here, was reduced to repeating the information made public in Washington and expressing its supposed "satisfaction" at the news.

The bomb dropped just as the Mexican congress was beginning to reset to the

'The public image of the bankers is not much better than that of the drug traffickers'

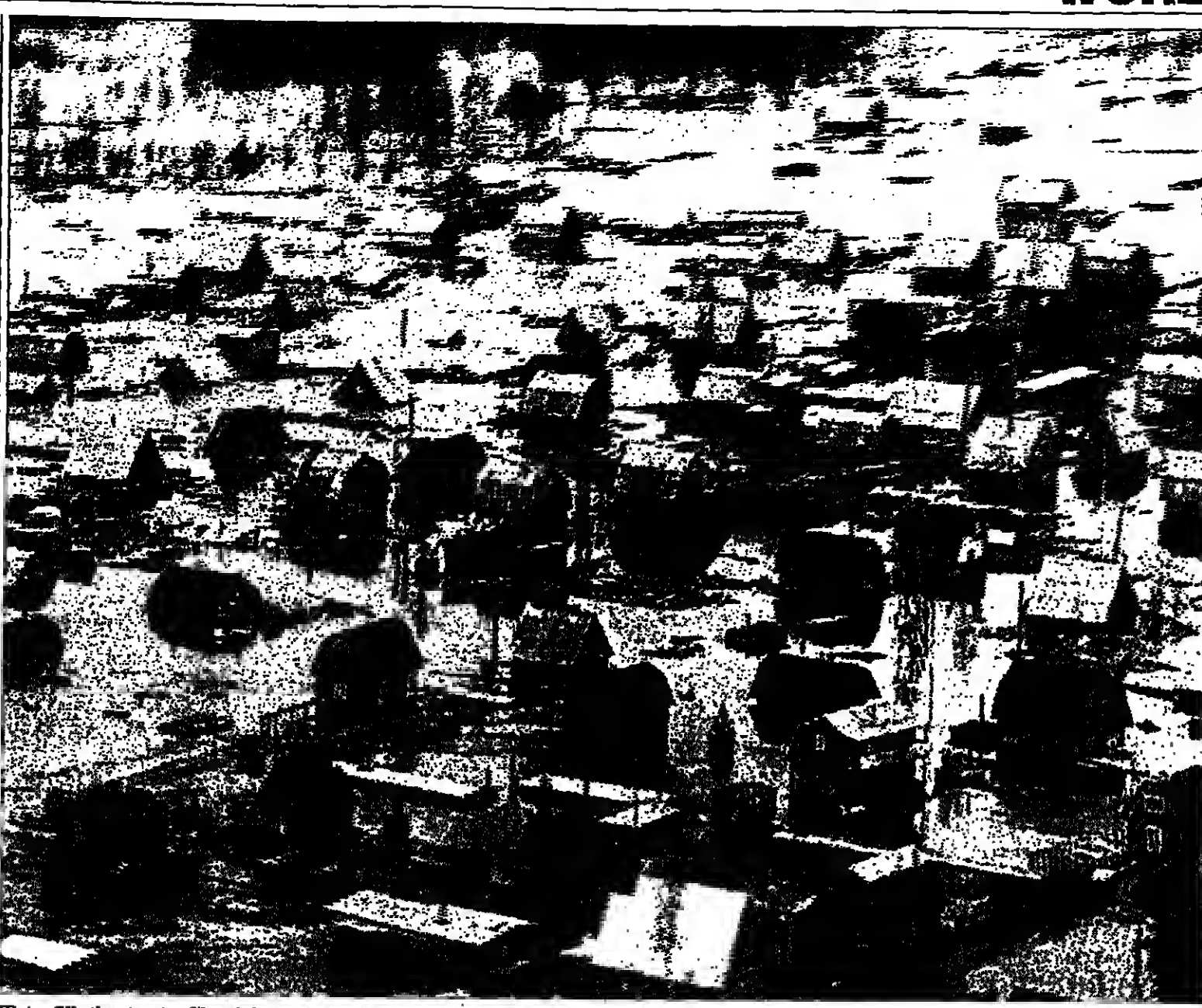
\$53 billion cost of rescuing the recently privatised banks from irresponsible lending policies and fraudulent operations.

The bankers themselves, whose public image is not much better than that of the drug traffickers, responded to the news from Washington by minimising its significance and promising to co-operate.

"We have unanimously decided to co-operate with the US authorities in following up this investigation, in co-operation with the Mexican authorities," the chairman of the bankers' association, Carlos Gómez y Gómez, said.

Philip Willan in Rome adds: Five people were arrested in the Italian end of Operation Casablanca after Carabinieri in the northern city of Bergamo posed as financiers willing to participate in money-laundering operations on behalf of the Colombian drug cartels, said Pierluigi Dell'Oso, a prosecutor at the National Anti-Mafia Prosecutor's Office in Rome who helped to co-ordinate the inquiry.

Three major Italian banks and three Milanese goldsmiths are under investigation in connection with the alleged money-laundering.



Water fills the streets of Lensk in Siberia. A wall of ice caused floods that forced 20,000 people to evacuate. The airforce was called in to bomb the ice.

Spicer: 'FO knew Sandline role'

Richard Norton-Taylor

THE man at the centre of the arms-to-Africa affair yesterday broke his silence to insist that the Foreign Office had full knowledge of his country company, Sandline's role in the Sierra Leone civil war, which included the supply of weapons to government forces.

Speaking for the first time about the affair, Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Spicer said: "I always believed we were doing the right thing for the right guy and there was approval."

But he said there was nothing in writing. "I'm still a great believer in honourable

people, call me naive if you like," he said.

The fact he has no written record of Sandline's meetings with Foreign Office officials may help to explain the apparent confidence of the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, in the independent inquiry he has set up under Sir Thomas Legg, the former permanent secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department.

Col Spicer made it clear he wants to give evidence, but it is uncertain whether he will be asked to do so. The inquiry's terms of reference are to establish "what was known by Government officials and ministers about plans to supply arms to Sierra Leone

people, call me naive if you like," he said.

Sandline has specifically challenged Mr Cook's account, given in the Commons on Monday, of a meeting between Col Spicer and Craig Murray, the deputy head of the Foreign Office's Equatorial Africa Department, on January 19. It is known that the meeting was attended by one other Foreign Office official.

Mr Cook told MPs that the officials made it plain at the meeting that the UN arms embargo covered all sides in the Sierra Leone conflict. However, Customs on Monday decided not to prosecute Sand-

line, on the grounds that "even though offences may have been committed, the particular circumstances leading up to the supply affect the fairness of the case".

Asked if he felt vindicated by the Customs decision, Col Spicer replied: "I've spent a great deal of time working for the Government of this country and what they are trying to do... so if I believed I was acting with the blessing of the Government, by officials or whatever, it is pretty galling to be investigated."

He described Sandline's main contribution as "tactical air mobility and logistic support" — a reference to an ageing Russian helicopter —

for Nigerian-led West African forces backing the deposed elected regime of President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah. Another 30 tonnes of Bulgarian weapons arrived too late and were never used.

Col Spicer insisted the UN embargo was aimed at the military junta. If there had been a trial, he said, he would have expected President Kabbah to have supported him.

There were still about 15 Sandline personnel in Sierra Leone, he said, adding he was not surprised that Peter Penfold — Britain's High Commissioner, who is alleged to have first mentioned Sandline to President Kabbah — was considered a hero there.

PAC in talks on farm killings

David Bornstein in Johannesburg

THE MURDER of a white farming couple in South Africa triggered talks yesterday between the Afrikaner leader, General Constand Viljoen, and the president of the radical Pan-Africanist Congress, Stanley Mqoba.

The killers who stabbed Don Delafield in his wheelchair and beat his wife Verina to death with a poker left letters at the scene of the crime addressed to President Nelson Mandela. They warned more farmers would be murdered if imprisoned PAC guerrillas were not released.

Police said they suspected the letters were an attempt to mislead investigators, leading them away from the killers who are believed to be still in the area. At least 114 attacks on white farms were recorded in March and April.

A relative found the couple's bodies on Sunday in their farmhouse outside the town of Rustenburg. The husband, aged 69, was recovering from a hip replacement. His wife had gone to buy a newspaper when the killers struck, tying him up with telephone cables and pantyhose before stabbing him. When Mrs Delafield returned they tied her up with her husband's ties and killed her.

The secretary-general of the PAC, Michael Maseda, said PAC members could not be involved. "There is no need for the PAC to do such desperate things," he said.

"We are in communication with white farmers and they are prepared to co-operate with us."

The police minister, Sydney Mufamadi, said his government was worried it had "not been as successful as we want to be" in preventing such attacks. "The challenge remains immense for us to ensure that we bring this thing to a complete halt."

Thieves stole more than 100 weapons and a vehicle from a Bloemfontein military base at the weekend. The army said yesterday they broke into a storeroom and took automatic weapons, rocket launchers and other equipment. — AP.

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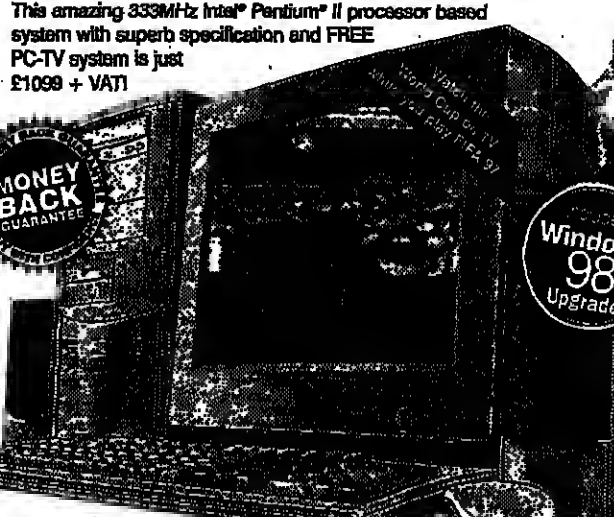
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After nuclear row, Pakistan and India rattle sabres over Kashmir

Suzanne Goldenberg in Islamabad

NUCLEAR brinkmanship between Pakistan and India moved to the more familiar terrain of Kashmir yesterday, with Islamabad's prime minister accusing his country's neighbour of becoming intoxicated by its display of might in last week's nuclear tests.

"You must have heard today that they are discussing their aggressive designs towards Kashmir. By the grace of God we are prepared for any trial and the whole world knows that Pakistan has the ability to defend itself," the prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, said.

His warning was delivered while the world waited to see if Islamabad would carry out a nuclear test of its own, an act that could further destabilise a volatile region and reduce Pakistan to penny for the full weight of international sanctions were imposed.

Mr Sharif said India's Hindu nationalist govern-

ment had been emboldened by the divided international response to its tests, with European countries reluctant to follow the United States in imposing sanctions on New Delhi.

On Monday, the Bharatiya Janata Party home minister of India's government, L. K. Advani, told Pakistan to bow to its military superiority and cease helping rebels who have been fighting India's rule over its portion of the disputed territory since 1963.

India and Pakistan have fought two wars over Kashmir and New Delhi has regularly accused its rival of arming the uprising — a charge Islamabad denies. However, the Indian army claims that in the last year the Kashmiri uprising has been hijacked by fighters recruited at religious seminars in Pakistan and Afghanistan — "mercenary

forces" in New Delhi's parlance. It blames the outsiders for massacres of Hindus — who are a minority in Jammu and Kashmir state — this year, intended to drive them out of Muslim-dominated areas.

"Islamabad should realise the change in the geostrategic situation in the region and the world and roll back its anti-India policy, especially with regard to Kashmir," Mr Advani said.

Even before this latest war of words over Kashmir, many Pakistanis had feared a resur-

gence of the hardline elements within the BJP, especially the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh which gives the party its steel core, have never been reconciled to the division of Kashmir. And the rupture with which middle-class India greeted the nuclear tests has relegated the BJP's regional allies — who would balk at such a raw assertion of power — to the sidelines.

"Now the whole world believes the fanatic fundamentalist rulers in India would not hesitate to cross the last threshold of aggression," Mr Sharif said.

India's state-run Power Finance company has deferred a \$100 million bond issue as a result of financial market volatility in the wake of US sanctions imposed after last week's nuclear tests. — Reuters.

News in brief

Yeltsin faced with threat of impeachment

Russia's Central Bank yesterday took emergency measures to protect the rouble as unpaid coal miners intensified their blockade of the Trans-Siberian railway, and Communists in parliament threatened to impeach President Boris Yeltsin, writes James Mack in Moscow.

Moscow still absorbing the impact of ex-general Alexander Lebed's victory in the election for the governorship of Krasnoyarsk region, Siberia, the latest wage protests and a fresh financial crisis underline the fragility of Mr Yeltsin's regime and the challenges to the untested government of young prime minister Sergei Kiriyenko.

Colombian peace protest

Hundreds of thousands of Colombians joined hands and waved white flags and handkerchiefs yesterday as they marched through major cities to protest against mounting guerrilla and paramilitary violence.

The demonstration was organised by trade unions, business groups, human rights organisations and students, and backed by the government. — AP.

Angolan deadline

United Nations mediator Alioune Blondin Beye yesterday gave Angola's political rivals 12 days to implement a 1994 peace accord, saying he would quit if they missed the new deadline. — Reuters.

Opponents jailed

A military court in Congo yesterday jailed two prominent

opponents of President Laurent Kabila for violating a ban on politics. Disgraced army chief Masasu Nindanga was sentenced to 20 years while opposition politician Joseph Olenghankoy was given 15 years. — Reuters.

Killers sentenced

Three gang members convicted of murdering Oscar-winning Killing Fields actor

Haing Ngor in Los Angeles in 1996 were yesterday given jail sentences ranging from 26 years to life. — AP.

Yugoslav crisis

President Slobodan Milosevic deepened a political crisis in Yugoslavia yesterday when he nominated the Montenegrin opposition leader, Momir Bulatovic, as the new prime minister. — Reuters.

"One missionary told me in all seriousness that during voodoo ceremonies, people break wind into each other's mouths."

The next club sensation?

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Comment

Diary

Matthew Norman

A RAY of sunshine lights up the face of my colleague Emily Barr... after a long leave of absence, Terry Major-Ball is back. Terry calls to report that he has recently been to Alaska. "Would you believe me if I said I'd been training huskies?" he asks. No, says Emily. "In that case, darling, I'll tell the truth. I was on a cruise, writing about it for the Express. I went with a very nice young PR lady called Lisa. Speaking of young ladies, Emily replies, what do you make of your nephew's engagement? "Ah yes, James and Emma Noble. I'm very happy for them both. People say: 'But she's been a topless model.' But I say that doesn't mean she's not a nice person. I'm sure she's a very nice young lady. I was at a game competition the other day and suddenly this mob of journalists burst in wanting to ask about James and Emma. And I said: 'You can't just come in like that! I'm busy, you can wait outside.' And would you believe it, they did!" And upon this mannerly note, Terry makes his farewells.

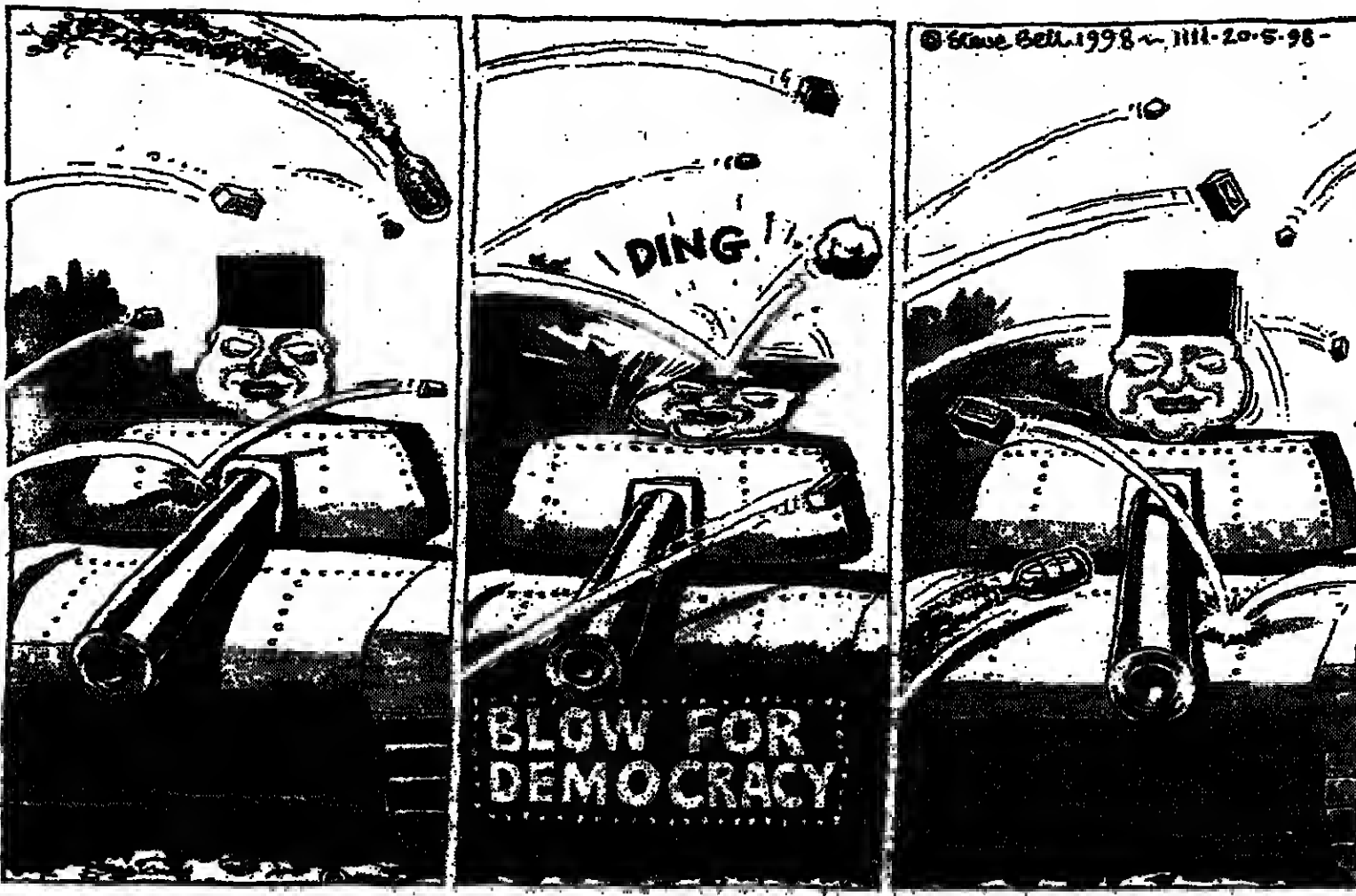
DOWNING Street, alas, is less polite when we make the morning call. After being put on hold for ages, we are connected to a brusque young press officer. "Can I help?" he asks. We would like, today, we explain, to put a positive spin on Harriet Harman, and wonder how this might best be done. "I think we have complete indifference to the Guardian Diary," he says. But surely you at Number 10... click, hrrrrrr; this insolent pnp has hung up on us, mid-sentence! If this impudence is repeated, we will be obliged to seek alternative methods to steer the Diary back on message. What those methods shall be I know not, but they shall be the terrors of the earth.

THIS lad's alleged indifference notwithstanding, it comes as a bit of a surprise that young people have been reading the Diary. This must stop. This column is not intended for anyone under 25 (would-be readers younger than that must have a note signed by parents or legal guardians; and yes, Oofy Wegg-Fraser, that does include you). In keeping with our latest focus group research, the Diary is, in fact, targeted at the 50-103 age range... and to this end, I am pleased to announce a special, one-off promotion. The first dozen nonagenarians to write in, enclosing proof of age, will be sent a bottle of champagne. Holders of telegrams from Her Majesty receive a mugshot.

WARM hats off to three victorious candidates in the recent council elections. Commenting on the dismal 30 per cent turnout, the Lewisham Mercury reports that Liberal Democrat Cllr Erika set a fine example by forgetting to vote for himself. At the same time, two highly promising New Labour careers were born. Asked to express their feelings on being elected to public office for the first time, both Kathryn Donnelly and Jane Hastie replied: "No comment." An excellent start. Westminster awaits.

MYSTERY continues to cloak the case of Alan Shearer. Last week, the FA cleared the England captain of deliberately kicking a Leicester player in the head, despite the most blatant TV evidence. The FA "special commission", which met in secret, explained that a previously (and since) unseen camera angle persuaded them it was "an accident". We ring FA spokesman Steve Double for a briefing. "The Commission made their decision on the Sky footage," says Steve. "Talk to Sky." Sky press office fails to return the call, but we are very keen to view the secret footage, and will keep at it until it does.

REA Birkett rings to draw attention to her Lonely Planet calendar, which lands the virtues of a different country each month. The nation selected for May, she tells us, is Indonesia; and the picture for next Sunday, May 24, features two smiling people, with the caption: "Friendly locals, Jakarta."



People in Northern Ireland will have no one to blame but themselves

Jonathan Freedland



NOW here's a funny thing. Three politicians — two of them grey men in debate with a roomful of fresh-faced teenagers. One side is mired in the past, hung up on old battles. The other is looking to the future, ready to take a risk for a better life. One side is stubbornly saying No. The other desperately wants to say Yes.

And which side is which? Surely it's the sixth formers at Ballyclare High School who are trying to change the world, urging their parents to vote Yes in Friday's referendum on the Northern Ireland agreement? Surely it's David Trimble and his Unionists, the men who have made a religion of saying No, who are against them? Right? Wrong. It's the other way around. At Ballyclare High it's the kids who voted No in their school poll, by 268 votes to 135, and the pro-union politicians — including the Tories' Viscount Cranborne and Labour's Kate Hoey — who are trying to change the world. The old are preaching to the young about the future; the young are telling the old not to forget the past.

And that's not the only reversal. Received wisdom used to hold that the "ordinary people" of Northern Ireland wanted peace: it was their leaders who kept them at war. This week the cliché no longer fits. Polls show that, while Trimble and his party are urging a Yes vote, the Unionist public is heading toward a collective thumbs-down.

You can blame the leaders for that if you want. The Yes campaign has been pitiful. It is made up of such bizarre al-

lies — Gerry Adams and Trimble, John Hume and the loyalist ex-paramilitaries, Bill Clinton and William Hague — they can't possibly work together. Each party is supposed to be doing its own thing, but little is happening. Few rallies, no door-to-door canvassing. "There's an exhaustion factor," confesses Trimble. While his side were in all-night talks at Stormont, his Unionist rivals in the No camp — led by Ian Paisley — had six months to organise. Their banners are everywhere; the energy is with them.

You can blame Trimble personally, too. His lack of charisma is costing the Yes cause: Paisley and the one-man-band UK Unionist, Robert McCartney, are out-talking him. Trimble has managed to take what should have been the most positive message possible — Yes — and present it as depressingly negative and contradictory.

He could be out and about boasting of a historic peace with nationalism, one that means old enemies will be at war no longer. He could be bragging of his achievement in getting Sinn Féin to tear up its own "green book" and accept the partition of Ireland and the Union with Britain. Instead he refuses to be seen with or to speak with Sinn Féin, insisting they are insincere and that their support for the deal is purely tactical — so undermining the accord and his achievement in getting it. Far from selling the agreement as a great prize that must be endorsed on Friday, he suggests it will change little and that Unionists can abandon it whenever they like. His main argument

in Ballyclare for a Yes vote was: "Sinn Féin want you to vote No." Nothing would please Adams more, he said, than to be able to blame "stupid Unionism" when the whole thing fails. With a message like that, it's no wonder the Yes campaign has not caught fire. There have been other problems. The heroes' welcome granted to the convicted killers of the Balcombe Street gang at the Sinn Féin Ard Fheis chilled Unionists. And overwhelming nationalist support for the deal has not reassured waverers. "When they're that happy, you have to worry," says Julie Blomming, an undecided voter on the Cregagh Road.

So you can blame the Balcombe Street gang, Sinn Féin, Trimble or Paisley — or all of them — for the Unionists' apparent march toward No. Or you can point the finger where most don't like it pointed: at the people themselves. "They're being intellectually challenged, and they don't like it," says David Ervine, a former loyalist paramilitary who led the Progressive Unionist Party at the Stormont talks. He is frustrated. He knows this is a good deal for Unionists, one that preserves the link to Britain and could bring normality to Ulster. And yet his constituents are rejecting it.

They'll only be happy, Ervine says, with a deal that hands them everything they want now and asks nothing of them to give up nothing. Unionists delude themselves into thinking that, if they say No, Sinn Féin and the others will return with better terms

rather than walk away from the peace process. He almost chokes when he bears No campaigners complain about prisoner releases or the agreement's lack of firm guarantees on decommissioning — as if somehow a No vote will keep the hard men in jail forever and persuade the IRA to give up all its weapons. Unionist voters seem to have kidded themselves into believing that voting No will reject this peace plan but replace it with a much better one. "There is nothing else," says Ervine. You would think they would be desperate to change the status quo, but some seem quite happy with it. "The truth is," says one veteran Unionist hard man, "they haven't suffered enough."

A man calls into Talkback, the BBC Radio Ulster phone-in, and suggests rejectionist politicians have built careers out of the Troubles and can't face giving them up. The conflict is familiar, comfortable, while the future is uncertain. Mayne voters are the same, sticking with what they know. Even Trimble admits his community suffers a terrible lack of confidence, that the notion of forging its own future — no longer ruled directly from London — is scary. The result, he says, is the current "flight from responsibility". For years, Ulster has been the land of permanent opposition, where you could always blame the other side or London or Dublin for what was going on. On Friday, that ends. The future is finally allowed to decide for itself. But it's not easy, not when you've spent a long, painful lifetime saying No.

Never mind the ballots

Polly Toynbee



A WARNING shot has been lobbed at the whole welfare to work programme. This week a Rowntree Foundation study examined the long-term fate of 850 unemployed people, with depressing results. Three-quarters of them took part-time or temporary jobs in the much-vaunted "flexible" labour market that is supposed to be the easy route back to work. Three years later most of them were still moving in and out of precarious and part-time jobs that offered little improvement to their lot. Fewer than a quarter had reached a safe haven in full-time permanent jobs. The New Deal will have to show it can do considerably better than that.

This study is a snapshot of Tory employment policy. Many of the problems it identifies are ones Labour is trying to solve. Nonetheless, it is a dire warning of what the "flexible" labour market does to keep millions of people poor. So far, we have a Government meeting both ways. Sometimes it talks powerfully of the need to improve working opportunities. But then Tony Blair lectures the Europeans on the virtues of British labour "flexibility" versus European old-fashioned "rigidity". One employer's flexibility is often his employee's dead-end job.

Tomorrow the Government publishes its Fairness at Work white paper. All the political controversy has centred on ballots for trade union recognition. But, taking the package as a whole, will there be enough measures to protect people from the rampant "flexibility" imposed on the workforce in recent years? Will it end the mentality that brought us the zero-hours contract, where workers are constantly on call but are paid only for the random hours for which they may be needed?

Tomorrow we shall see how the Government views such flexible Victorian practices. The Employment Policy Institute recently published a close analysis of one year in the labour market which showed a rapid turnover in jobs — flexibility with a vengeance for the unskilled falling in and out of temporary work. Not many ever move up into permanence. For all the Tory boasting about the new growth in jobs, only one in five have been permanent full-time posts. It's a pattern the New Deal for the young and long-term unemployed will have to break. There is only small gain in spending £3.5 billion in pushing more people through the same revolving doors, in and out of marginal work for the rest of their lives.

Some of the most important levers for change rest in the Government's hands. For example, there is a strong incentive for employers to create more part-time jobs, for which they pay lower National Insurance contributions. There should at least be a level playing field, with employers paying exactly the same national insurance, pro rata, for full and part-time employees.

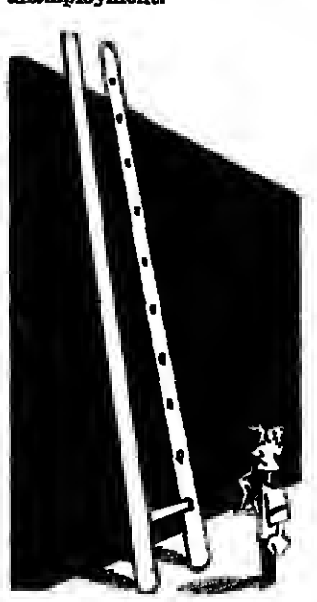
THESE studies tell us how things were under the Tories. It will take perhaps four or five years before we get any reliable figures to show whether the New Deal has made a lasting difference. Claim and counter-claim will be made on the crude figures showing how many have been handed into first jobs. But those running the programme worry about how to stop the politicians on both sides making cheap political capital out of figures that will tell us very little for a long while yet. So don't rely on some New Deal results out tomorrow.

Labour is cautiously laying the foundation stones for a better employment market. The work more worthwhile for millions. So with the higher income benefits. The childcare

strategy, published yesterday, will transform the opportunities for women. Part-timers will now get the same legal rights as full-timers. Signing up for the social chapter, the new 48-hour working week will benefit many, guaranteeing a three-week holiday and one day a week off. Despite its many exemptions, its symbolic value marks disapproval of gross over-working. Not bad for just one year.

But not enough. Last week's McKinsey report showed what low productivity we achieve compared with our competitors. If only we could boast that we had a better quality of life to show for it. But we work the longest hours in Europe. For 100 years working hours were repeatedly cut, until we would now have an average 35-hour working week if progress had continued at the same rate. One study shows that, if we did work a 35-hour week, we would be employing about a million more people full time. So the idea that all this flexibility has created thousands more jobs is only one way of looking at it.

LABOUR says it wants to break with the past and do away with what one minister calls "Arthur Daley" working practices, where one company undercuts the rest by exploiting its workforce, dragging other companies down. Yet, speaking with its other voice, ministers praise the value of low-cost easy-entry jobs for getting the unemployed back to work. Which do they mean? These two reports strongly suggest that getting people into bad jobs does not help much in the long run. Will similar studies in five years time show less flexibility in the labour market and more lasting ladders out of unemployment?



One foot on the jobs ladder will not be enough. Too many will fall back

The rhetoric from the Treasury is that the future lies in a better trained, more highly skilled workforce producing high quality goods. How do we get there? The training element in the New Deal is the best in any scheme yet and should lift people's life chances. But those people churned through the low pay/bad job/no job cycle are not a part of the New Deal. What of them?

There was the noble intention of the University for Industry, designed to offer lifelong learning and training for those with no job. So far, employment experts say, it's proved a damp squib. What is needed is a real push with a lot of money to offer attractive, well-publicised free courses in every area. The Rowntree researchers suggest the programme should be kick-started by making employers offer everyone five training days a year to attend summer schools or taster courses, so those least likely to use them at least get to see what is available.

The implied promise and the true intention of welfare to work is to lift people permanently out of a marginal insecure life. But this research suggests that one foot on the ladder won't be enough. Too many will keep falling back down. To make it work, the Government now needs to create a second step upwards.

Bill Gates's worldly wealth has given him the means to move into space, launching 288 satellites

Blast-off

Bill O'Neill

MICROSOFT dominates the world of the personal computer and, whatever the result of current action by the US Justice Department, looks set to determine the future of the Internet, too.

For Bill Gates, the company's boss, has already made plans to soar beyond terrestrial jurisdictions with one of the most astonishing technological ambitions of the age: a scheme to put 288 satellites in orbit around the earth and so provide an alternative network to link computers. This "Internet-in-the-sky" would be capable of providing any one, regardless of their location on the planet, with access to telecommunications infrastructure equivalent to that of a modern city.

The first satellite is due to be launched, appropriately enough, in 2001, and

the last one by the end of the following year — an unprecedented burst in the earth's population of orbital objects. Most of the 4,000 or so satellites launched since Sputnik 1 first went into orbit on October 4 1957 are now defunct.

Teledestic, as the scheme is known because of the way its array of satellites follows the shape of the earth, would be much more than a global telephone system, such as the Iridium array of 66 satellites, which is due to come into operation in September.

As the Teledestic satellites fall past the earth, retained by gravity in polar orbits just 435 miles above the surface, clever choreography will ensure that they provide every location with a constant shadow from within which telecommunications could be transmitted and received. As one satellite starts to disappear over the northern horizon, a following one in the same

orbit will come up from the south; or, as the earth rotates about its own axis, another satellite in an adjacent orbit will take over.

The entire array, which is designed to be tied into terrestrial networks where these are available, will

pass data traffic backwards and forwards from one side of the globe to the other. If one satellite develops a fault, a neighbouring one will be capable of compensating for the loss.

The need for impressive celestial choreography, which takes cellular communications to a new level of sophistication, is the downside of placing the sat-

ellites in what are known as low-earth orbits. Traditionally, communications satellites have been positioned 22,500 miles above the earth's surface, where their orbits are synchronised with the earth's rotation and their shadow remains over one particular spot, albeit a large one. The downside of this arrangement of so-called geostationary orbits is the delay in sending signals over such long distances and the need for huge power packs to support the system.

Craig McCaw, the young millionaire who developed Teledestic after selling his mobile phone business to AT & T in 1994, described it as an alternative "Internet-in-the-sky". The original dream was to install 840 satellites in the array at a total project cost close to \$6 billion. When this ambitious target, which would have provided huge capacity from the outset of the project, was revised, many analysts began talk-

ing of Teledestic as little more than the whim of men with more money than sense. That was, at least, until last month when a renowned entrepreneur from Saudi Arabia, Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, spent \$120 million buying a 16 per cent stake in the scheme. Alwaleed has earned his reputation from investing in struggling companies that have subsequently seen their stars rise. Most notable among them is Citicorp bank, in which his investment of around \$360 million in 1991 is now reckoned to be worth \$4.2 billion.

McCaw's technological vision is what attracted Bill Gates to become an equal partner in the project in the equity apices. Bill Gates's personal wealth is said to increase by \$1.5 million an hour. So, if the terrestrial world won't let Gates play in its game, then he has more than enough money to make his own.

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Last gasp of a despot

He still needs a shove

PRESIDENT SUHARTO'S grudging willingness to step down may have come much too late to save Indonesia from further turmoil. A decision taken so tardily and reluctantly under exceptional pressure is likely to require much more sustained effort before it is fulfilled. The opposition will suspect that the plan he announced yesterday for a political transition may allow him not only to rig the new electoral law and the parliamentary contest which is to follow, but to ensure a successor to his liking. Here is a man who only three months ago insisted on being chosen for a seventh term when his country was already plunged into a crisis for which he and his vengeful family are largely responsible. His first action after being "re-elected" by a bogus process was to appoint a cabinet filled with cronies. Who can be so sure he will go quietly now?

The foreign powers who turned a blind eye for so long to this undemocratic and corrupt regime are now shifting their feet uneasily. It is absurd to argue that expressing a view on Suharto's future is unacceptable interference in Indonesia's internal affairs. The West has intervened in Indonesia ever since it condoned the appalling massacres 30 years ago which assisted Suharto's rise to power. Besides, there is more than one way in which to convey the message. The right time to withdraw support from Suharto would have been before the March election, when he had already shown himself more interested in protect-

ing his family's interests than in tackling the economic chaos. As the Guardian argued at the time, neither Indonesia nor Asia could afford more Suhartism. What was needed was some sharp advice delivered down the telephone line from Washington before his country unravelled altogether. It is a tragic pity that no such message was delivered. Even now, very late in the day, a clear message is needed from outside that Suharto must speed up his exit. At the lowest common denominator of diplomatic self-interest, this may somewhat redeem Western credibility with a more radical regime emerging in Jakarta. The folly of supporting the Shah to the bitter end should be a historical object lesson: so far it does not appear to have been learnt.

Let us pass over the ludicrous statement yesterday from Australian Prime Minister John Howard congratulating Suharto on "the wisdom that he has shown". (Successful Australian governments have white-washed the Jakarta regime even when their own nationals were its victims.) More relevant was the US administration's unwillingness, before Suharto's announcement, to respond to appeals from Congress to call directly for him to step down. The main argument against doing so is a fear of the unknown. As one official told a Senate subcommittee on Monday, the US might "get something we don't want". Last week there was even some feeble talk about a "middle ground" which would allow Suharto to stay as titular leader. Here there are shades of Iraq, where the question of who might succeed Saddam Hussein has more than once subtly inhibited US policy.

The answer to the uncertainty argument is that revolutions are uncertain affairs. But as a general rule, attempts to frustrate or manipulate them are likely to produce worse outcomes. The dilemma for the Indo-

nesian opposition, whether secular or Muslim, is how to separate the armed forces from Suhartism: it is for them to debate whether compromise or confrontation is the best tactic at any given time. The outside world (including the international monetary institutions) can best help by delivering an unequivocal verdict on this sorry regime: Suharto should go sooner rather than later.

A kids' charter

Thanks to the new MPs

AN ERA ends. For decades politicians have been talking about family values but failed to pursue policies which supported families. Yesterday's consultation paper on a national childcare strategy opens a new age. Children and childcare are no longer a marginal issue. Ministers have engaged on a daunting task. Childcare is the real Cinderella in Britain's welfare state: much of it unregulated, most of it provided by untrained people, and in many areas completely unavailable. Publicly funded daycare is provided for a mere 2 per cent of children under three compared to 20 per cent in France and 48 per cent in Denmark. There is only one registered childcare place (childminders, nurseries and out of school clubs) for every nine children under eight. There are 800,000 latchkey children under 12 who go home to an empty house after school. Cuts to social services by the last government have meant even fewer daycare places than four years ago.

What has changed the political climate? The rise of the woman MP. There are 121 women in Parliament, most of whom have direct experience of the difficulties of juggling jobs and family responsibilities.

There are 101 in Tony Blair's Labour Party. Hence his two-page foreword in yesterday's document signalling a personal commitment to a coherent strategy. Women should be celebrating. Forget the jibes from the far right. Labour is not telling people how to live but rather is looking at how they live and examining what can be done to support them. Ministers are not telling women to go out to work: they have been doing that in droves for the last two decades. Two thirds of all women now go back to work after maternity leave — a 50 per cent increase in the last decade alone. Long before this new initiative, official projections suggested women would account for 1.1 million of the expected 1.5 million rise in jobs by 2006.

Now Labour has committed itself on three fronts: better quality through more systematic regulation and training; wider access with 40,000 extra places this year with more to come; and easier affordability through generous tax credits for working families and special grants for adult students at FE colleges. A big expansion in after school clubs will give poor children new opportunities to develop their music, arts and sporting interests as well as providing quiet places for homework. Of course there are caveats: too little for the three-and-under age group, too much reliance on the lottery, the modest first year programme. But yesterday's package belatedly puts family policy firmly on the social policy agenda.

All dolled up

It's a matter of taste

THERE MUST BE some mistake, said the nice people at the Franklin Mint yesterday. The lawsuit launched by the Diana, Prin-

cess of Wales Memorial Fund to stop their mail order firm selling Diana dolls was uncivilised: the Mint would never do anything to "dishonour Diana's memory." And they have had pledged to donate at least a million pounds to charities which the Princess supported.

The original £116 porcelain doll, "painted by hand to capture the radiant blue eyes and shy smile that touched us all", was already being advertised before the fund registered the Princess's face and name as trademarks. The case is now expected to take up to two years in the District Court of Central California, during which time many more dolls will be sold, plus wardrobes changes including the "casual outfit" worn when the Princess visited Angola "on her historic peace-keeping mission."

There is indeed an element of ambiguity in the fund's objection to the Princess Doll as reported so far. Is it taking legal action because the Franklin Mint has failed to secure a proper licence, or because the product — a crafted in "poseable lifelike vinyl" — is so horribly naïf? It appears that the company did approach the fund last year seeking a licence. It is said to have backed off because it was unhappy with the terms. It is not so clear whether the fund would have been unhappy to license the doll on aesthetic grounds if the negotiations had continued.

One fund trustee, Vivienne Parry, has already attacked the project as "undignified". A collectors' doll, she says, should be something that is special "whose clothes don't come on and off." That seems to imply that the fund would be happy to license a lifelike vinyl Diana as long as its "fashion ensemble" could not be removed. We can be sure of one thing: the Princess herself, who enjoyed frequent changes of clothing, would have enjoyed the row immensely.

Letters to the Editor

From sangria to Sodom

WHAT is the difference between a bowl of sangria and a bowl of fat? (Is it or is it a week boozing on the Costa del Sol, May 19?) Or indeed a pile of tyres/bricks/milk crates — all have been hailed as great works of art. The Leeds arts students should be congratulated for showing up the "fine art" world for what it is — a bunch of hypocritical and self-important old (and young) farts. Lee Brooksbank, Bradford, W Yorks.

NOT spending £1,000 on not going on holiday to Spain comes pretty low down the list of bizarre things that people do or don't spend money on. However, the spectacle it has created is very, very funny. Peter Nicklin, Newcastle Upon Tyne.

RE David McKie's column on towns named after vices (As if there were no Gomorrah, May 18): there is a place called Sodom on Landranger 116 at approximately SJ 08716. It is marked on the A Big Road Atlas of Britain 1977 on Page 46, north east of Boffari on the A541 Mold-Denbigh road. Dennis Roberts, Denbigh, Clwyd.

IN the North Dorset village of Marnhill, for reasons which no one has yet got to the bottom of, is a road called Sodom Lane. Richard Kelghley, Shillingstone, Dorset.

THEN there was the Rolls seen at Woolcombe Bay Hotel, North Devon, registration number: MONIE. The owner was very apparent in the restaurant. Michael Golby, Exeter, Devon.

Oxbridge is opening up

MY DAUGHTER is currently deep in university prospectuses in preparation for applications next term. I very much doubt whether she will choose either Oxford or Cambridge, despite the fact that her parents both loved their time at both universities.

The reason has less to do with innate ability or the sense of intimidation implied by Linda Grant's interviewee (A world of privilege apart, May 18) than with the observation that to do so would be inherently risky. She has watched too many friends, predicted the highest of A-level grades, fail to get any offers at all if their application to Oxford or Cambridge was unsuccessful, while those with lesser predictions, but neither ancient university among their choices, received a full quiver of offers to read the same subjects at the same institutions.

There is definite circumstantial evidence that other universities, faced with over-subscription, tend to select, summarily, the most candidates from state schools who also apply to Oxbridge. Caroline Spencer, Canterbury, Kent.

I WILL write at once to my old Oxford college, Wadham, demanding to know why it is not striving to attract more applicants from north London who live in eight-bedroom Edwardian houses and have uncles who are RSC playwrights. Clearly there is something amiss when, instead, it attracts students like me, a milkman's daughter from Belfast. Jill Brown, London.

I WISH Linda Grant had come and had a cup of tea in my London garden before writing her article. She could have met my daughter — 18, taking A-levels, thoroughly state-educated at excellent local primary and comprehensive and — yes, with a conditional place at Oxford (Wadham, in fact). She went to an Open Day at Wadham, found it welcoming, unstuffy and hugely stimulating — and there were plenty of state school students there. She was carefully selected (five interviews) on her own merits. Ann Hunt, London.

GRADUATED from Queens' College, Cambridge, last year. Thirty six per cent of

Cambridge students are from independent schools and 48 per cent from maintained schools. Still, there are disproportionately few applications from the state sector compared to the number of 3 As students. Is it an image problem? Yes. I went home for a higher education open day at the University of Warwick Schools campaign and was shocked at the number of state school students I met who had been intimidated not to apply by their schools. Richard Hadden, Brussels.

THE success of Merton College shows just how much talent from state schools Oxbridge has missed out on over the years. This injustice has been perpetuated by many employers — like the Guardian — with its "large numbers of Oxbridge graduates" — who often seem to select staff from the ancient universities, partly as an easy way of dealing with masses of job applications and partly because of their own Oxbridge connections. The world is probably a poorer place as a result of all this under-use of talent. Colin Shearman, London.



Granny doesn't live here any more

DO WE really think that more of us living into our 80s and 90s is a crisis (Polly Toynbee, May 18)? The increase in life expectancy since 1900 has gone hand-in-hand with increasing national wealth and productivity, which also has generated enormous improvements in working conditions, state education, health, etc.

Long-term care is not a "can we afford it?" problem. The question is, should it be a social responsibility, via income tax, like health and education? We all have the right to save from our taxed income and to decide what to do with our assets. Does Polly Toynbee, or the Royal Commission, presume that it's fair that one in six elderly people needing long-term care must use their savings to pay for it? Joe Harris, National Pensioners' Convention, London.

PAYING for residential care is nothing new. What happened under the Tory government was that the NHS stopped providing long-term nursing care for elderly people, forcing those in need to pay according to their means for a service they were always led to believe was free from the cradle to the grave. Sonia Webb, Swansea.

IT SEEMS to me pure common-sense that the capital, including property, which people have accumulated during their lifetime should be used by them to secure the maximum comfort possible in their old age. If a child were to be mentally or physically handicapped then one would wish to make as much provision for them as possible, but to accept basic local authority accommodation and forgo something more expensively comfortable in order to pass on a house to those who do not actually need one seems absurd. Sorry kids! If the worst comes to the worst we're cashing everything in for the most comfortable nursing home we can afford. D J Richards, Evesham, Worcestershire.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied: please include a full postal address. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. The Country Diary is on Page 10.

In Ulster it's time to start forgiving and stop forgetting

SIR KENNETH Bloomfield's report on ordaining financial and emotional compensation for the relatives of loved ones killed during the conflict in the north of Ireland is a step in the direction of peace and reconciliation (Trimbles and Hume united to save Yes campaign, May 19).

But there is one group of victims/relatives who are seldom recognised — those innocent men, women and children killed by the security forces: the British Army, RUC and UDR/RRR. When was the last time we saw the family of 12-year-old Majella O'Hare, shot twice in the back by a soldier while walking near her home in Ballymoyer, interviewed by the media? When was the last time we read about 12-year-old Carol Ann Kelly, shot dead by a plastic bullet whilst returning from a shop with a carton of milk?

To secure a true and lasting peace, all the victims of the past 30 years must be remembered and the pain and sorrow of all the families must be recognised. Bob Barker, (Former British soldier) Gateshead.

THE people of Northern Ireland, particularly the Unionist elements pressing for a "No" vote in the referendum, should give serious thought to the effect of such a result on the mainland UK population. The people of Ulster know better than most what it feels like to be forgotten, but I'm beginning to know what it feels like too. Fifty million of us sit in hopeful silence, watching the bickering, and pay for it. Shows of triumphalism by either side have not been helpful, but if I see people dancing in the streets because of a "no" vote, I and many others will start asking: "Where's my referendum?" When will I be able to cast my verdict on such "loyalism"? D E Owens, Chalfont St Peter, Bucks.

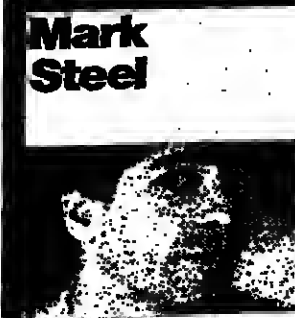
Less masturbatory ogling than a little light flirtation

AFTER 76 years James Joyce's *Ulysses* can still be read or misread before it is misunderstood, though we ought to have an advantage over the "pretence" (Letters, May 18) of the DPP and other early readers at the Home Office. A single instance of deemed obscenity, rather than the worst, was sufficient to ban the book: the concluding solicitude was the easiest (and loneliest) place to find and show this. But was there a worst? Leopold Bloom's "masturbatory ogling" is of Gerty MacDowell, she is not a minor, even by 1904 standards. Bernard McGinley, London.

TO CALL the encounter between Leopold Bloom and Gerty MacDowell "masturbatory" misrepresents a truly artistic depiction of a teenage girl lightly flirting, even learning to flirt and enjoying the experience, at the expense of a

middle-aged man whose moment of pleasure is followed rapidly by guilt and anxiety. I have trouble finding this any other passage potentially distasteful. For a literally masturbatory incident, I refer your letter writer to *The Ecstasy*, the story in *Ulysses* with a man seeking to molest two boys. Joyce presents this as a shameful and unpleasant event. Donald Hughes, Hoylake, Wirral.

Comrades in arms



IF foreign events will always give away how parochial someone is, I'm certain there are some people who've been watching the riots in Indonesia and said: "Ooh look, it's sunny there as well." This attitude is encouraged by the press, especially the local variety. Which is why you get headlines like "Earthquake in Peru forces Yeovil man to cancel hitch-hiking trip".

The national press does cover the events, but usually not until the Foreign Office tells the British to get out. Or, in the case of yesterday's *Daily Express*, when "Cranny" misrepresents a truly artistic depiction of a teenage girl lightly flirting, even learning to flirt and enjoying the experience, at the expense of a middle-aged man whose moment of pleasure is followed rapidly by guilt and anxiety. I have trouble finding this any other passage potentially distasteful. For a literally masturbatory incident, I refer your letter writer to *The Ecstasy*, the story in *Ulysses* with a man seeking to molest two boys. Joyce presents this as a shameful and unpleasant event. Donald Hughes, Hoylake, Wirral.

And there's the deal signed by Thames Water to run the monopoly water company in partnership with Suharto's son. Maybe Thames had a bit of inside knowledge, and told him: "Here, you want to get into water, mate. These new cannons your Dad's buying, they get through tons of the stuff, you'll be rolling in it." And the Suharto defender at the Foreign Office, Carol Robinson, who has described the military's attacks on demonstrators as "squad-like indiscipline". Marching out of step can be put down to squad-like indiscipline. So can getting drunk and causing havoc in a nightclub. But not even squad-like wake up on a stranger's settee after a wild night and think: "Oh I never, did I? I didn't organise an air raid on a village in East Timor again, did I? Oh my head, I need a Nurofen."

Friendly relations have been justified by reference to the way the country is "reforming." They're trying not to kill so many people, so not giving them tanks would only upset them. The story that would teach kids about how England deals with tyrants is that, one day, St George announced: "I've had meaningful and frank discussions with the dragon, and he has assured me that he hopes to hold free elections by the year 2010. In the meantime there is evidence that the number of maidens he's eating is being reduced year by year, so to encourage these reforms we are selling him 22 million worth of fire, which incidentally will secure 170 jobs at GEC."

Now the IMF and Western leaders are keen for Suharto to depart. But is this because they've all thought: "You know, now I come to think about it, there's something about that bloke I don't like." Or might it be because they want Indonesia to continue providing high profits, low

wages and a market for water cannons, but with the stability that Suharto can't deliver? High profits, for example, are not compatible with mass looting. Especially if the looters raise the stakes and demand points on their loyalty card for looting the same supermarket three times in a week. The problem for whoever takes over the country is that once people sense their own power, they don't relinquish it easily. The participants in today's demonstration, if they succeed in toppling a tyrant of 30 years, won't just think: "Ah, that's better, nice to be starving under someone different for a change."

Nonetheless a major leader, tooled up with British weapons, will have been overthrown by a group of unarmed students just before he's due to die. Isn't that just typical of students? To wait 30 years before starting a project, and then do it all at once at the last minute.

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Stand by your man

Barker wrote *Don't You Make Me High* — re-recorded on Apollo in 1946 as *Don't You Feel My Leg, Feel My Thigh* — for his wife in 1936. Its success brought her extended engagements and tours to the South. A 1970s revival of the

Peter Vacher
Louise 'Blue Lu' Barker, blues singer, born November 13, 1913; died May 7, 1998

Edward Pearce
Patrick Henry Bligh Wall, politician, born October 14, 1918; died May 15, 1998

Ronald Bergan
Leslie Stevens, producer, director, screenwriter; born February 3, 1924; died April 24, 1998

Ironmonger walks out with his net Belgian hare

MAFEE, Ethel, artist, aged 95, on 18th May, peacefully at Royal Free Hospital after a long illness. Senior fellow of Royal College of Art and R.D.I. Well loved aunt, great Friday 29th May at Golders Green Crematorium.

SUTHERLAND, Tom, (late Hovson Al-graphy). This loved husband of Jean, died suddenly 14th May.

BERTOLINO ZAN. Luciana, died suddenly on 16th May, aged 50. Much loved mother of Loris and widow of the late Pasco Macchiarini. Much missed and cherished by all her many friends. All friends welcome at funeral service at All Saints Church, Birlings, nr West Malling, Kent, 10.30am, Friday May 22nd and reception from 4pm at Oadon or Friends of the Earth to Vinear, 54 High Street, West Malling, Kent ME19 6LJ. Any enquiries, www.dunelmortuary.co.uk

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Bill Gates's celestial choreography

Now as world leaders gather to mark 50 years of global trading agreements, **Larry Elliott** charts the benefits - and the drawbacks - that tariff agreements have brought and looks forward to the next round of liberalisation

Year	Number of countries
1945	22
1950	33
1970	48
1990	66
1997	88

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decree that it was illegal for

or write to: **John Adams, 119 Farringdon Road London EC1R 3ER**

Tomorrow: Will BT be talking telephone numbers?

Executive Financial Editor: Ben Clissitt
Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
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Finance Guardian

Chief steps down as circular rejects claims of former clinical trials head Biotech turns fire on Millar

Julia Finch
and Pauline Springett

BITISH Biotech yesterday attacked Dr Andrew Millar, its former head of clinical trials, after publishing a 34-page circular to shareholders to rebut its catalogue of damaging allegations against the company.

The company, once the flagship of the British biotechnology industry, also announced that its chief executive was stepping down and revealed it is seeking a high-profile partner from the pharmaceutical industry to sell its drugs in the US — if they ever make it to market. It also confirmed it is to axe one in seven of its staff to cut costs.

The directors accused Dr Millar of acting "improperly

and unprofessionally". They said he might have compromised crucial tests by trying to discover how compounds were performing halfway through, which may mean regulatory authorities could reject their conclusions.

The British Biotech scandal erupted in March when it suspended Dr Millar for allegedly passing confidential company information to two major shareholders, Mercury Asset Management and Perpetual. He was fired on April 20.

In the weeks that followed Dr Millar launched a series of attacks on the company, whose future depends on the success of two key drugs, Zacetax for pancreaticitis and marimastat for cancer. He accused the company of investing too much time and money on two drugs which had only a limited chance of

success; there was no evidence that Zacetax saved any lives and he estimated marimastat's chances of success at no more than 40 per cent. Allegations of insider dealing, rigged trials and withholding key information followed.

British Bio's share price, which reached nearly 300p some 18 months ago, collapsed to 40p.

Yesterday, the company denied any wrongdoing. Its circular addresses all the allegations and includes detailed chronologies, excerpts from internal memos and explanations of drug trial procedures.

Dr McCullagh, who founded British Bio 12 years ago and has become a multi-millionaire although the company has never brought a product to market or made a profit, is to leave in September. He has been under pressure to quit



since the Millar scandal erupted. Chairman John Ralsman called his departure "an honourable act... in the best interests of the company". Last night Dr Millar said:

"Keith McCullagh stepping down doesn't change the business plan. It is the first step, but not the whole story." He described the decision to seek a partner for US marketing as "good news" but added: "They should have made that decision five years ago."

He repeated his calls for wholesale changes in the boardroom. "The real problem is that the directors are inseparably wedded to the existing business plan. They think the shares are the end product, not the drugs."

Dr Millar denied doing any long-term damage to the company. "It is definitely true that I looked at some trial data," he said. "But I looked at overall mortality data, and that is completely unbiassed. In no way does what I did invalidate the surveys."

Last night the company's

explanations seemed to have won backing among its major shareholders. One said: "Dr Millar doesn't come out of it well at all."

Perpetual, which has a 9.44 per cent stake, said it was happy with the circular. Bob Yerbury, its chief investment officer, said he was pleased Dr McCullagh had decided to step aside, but added he had never been unduly concerned by Dr Millar's allegations.

"Our main concerns have been balance sheet issues and the way in which the products were going to be brought to market." Those concerns had now been fully addressed.

Mercury Asset Management, the largest shareholder with 10 per cent, said it supported the management. It would not comment on whether it believed Dr Millar's allegations.

Notebook

Changing of the guard at M&S



Alex Brummer

THE stock market was typically grudging about Marks & Spencer despite a strong underlying performance in Britain, which offsets the weaker overseas results. The combination of steady growth and heavy capital investment, which has made the St Michael franchise so durable, is not the whizz-bang stuff which analysts tend to look for when feeding their clients.

Nevertheless, the decision by M&S chairman Sir Richard Greenbury and his team to press ahead with rapid integration of the Littlewoods city centre stores, which will increase UK floor space by 20 per cent, and to spend on year 2000 compliant and euro friendly tills — in conjunction with a broader IT strategy — will yield dividends as EMU moves to reality.

Moreover, M&S has also demonstrated that a slow, careful build-up of businesses, notably in financial services, will eventually produce returns, with the company's selective range of products from PEPs to personal loans producing some 8 per cent of operating profits.

But behind the solid facade there are signs that M&S is not modernising its board quite as quickly as it has latched on to new square footage.

Sir Richard is insistent that it is the board of directors who must stay on as executive chairman for another three years until he is 65. However, there is some concern among the executive directors that this commitment may mean that the transfer of power to one of his four managing directors may be slower than would be preferable.

The four potential candidates, all of them advanced by Sir Richard, are the deputy chairman Keith Oates, 55; Peter Salisbury, 48, who as head of clothing runs the company's core business; Guy McCracken, 48, who is in charge of operations and Lord Stone, 55, — who has drawn the short straw — the static food group.

Sir Richard may want to see how they perform in their current tasks before settling the succession. But there is a school of thought which says that, with so much change going on, from the launch of mail order to IT modernisation, this would be the right time to settle the future.

One way of dealing with this might be for Sir Richard to split roles, by appointing a chief executive who will drive the modernisation while the chairman takes a more strategic view of the company's affairs. For a long time it was thought that Lord Stone was the most likely to step up.

But the internal betting is on Sir Salisbury, although Lord Stone could turn the odds in his favour if he were

to find some way of rekindling the excitement of the food business.

None of this is urgent, given the continued vitality of a business that has taken the St Michael brand and British textiles to almost every continent under Sir Richard's stewardship. But all institutions, even those which work, need change.

Wage worries

IT WOULD be too easy to dismiss the headline rise in UK inflation to 4 per cent as an aberration. But at the core of Britain's economic problems over recent decades has been the way in which wages have tended to outperform prices, with negotiators using the retail prices index as a starting point.

In fact, all the economic data scrutinised by the Bank of England's monetary policy committee, that which is causing most consternation is the rise in average earnings of 4.9 per cent. The fear must be that the latest advance in the RPI will drive earnings up a notch further. Much of the increase in inflation is due to administered prices in housing (as a result of the cut in mortgage tax relief) tobacco, and motorol, following tax changes in the budget. Strip these out and the underlying picture is much more positive with several key sectors of the economy, from household goods to clothing and footwear, showing price falls. Overall, the picture might be considered benign.

It would certainly be odd for the MPC to change direction at a time when public finances, bolstered by a robust economy, are improving so rapidly with a large debt repayment of £3.4 billion in April. Nevertheless, history teaches that the authorities ignore a feed-through from headline inflation to wage settlements at their peril.

Biotech trial

THE intended departure of Dr Keith McCullagh as chief executive of British Biotech has been greeted with some relief by shareholders.

The continued feud between the chief executive and the former director of clinical research, Dr Andrew Millar, has badly destabilised a company in which shareholders

investing in faith rather than tangible results — need to have absolute confidence in the probity and integrity of the management.

This is partly addressed by Biotech's detailed and frank assessment of the prospects for its two main drugs, Marimastat and Zacetax, with the company acknowledging that there are some difficult regulatory issues to be resolved with the latter over efficacy studies.

Now that the public squabbling has been resolved and British Biotech has acknowledged that it will need partnership, rather than a go-it-alone strategy to succeed in the global pharmaceutical market, there may be a window of opportunity for some normality to return to its trials and its share price.

Biotechnological warfare



Dr Keith McCullagh

DR KEITH McCullagh, who announced yesterday that he will quit as chief executive of British Biotech in September, is widely regarded as a somewhat controversial figure.

A dapper dresser with what some observers describe as a slick manner, he has enjoyed a high profile at the helm of what was, until its recent woes, a stock market darling.

Dr McCullagh, British Biotech's founder, has been chief executive at the company for 12 years, during which time he has seen British Biotech hailed as one of the brightest hopes in the burgeoning biotechnology field.

He has an annual salary of

£300,000 and is on a one-year contract. No details have been given of any possible pay-off.

Dr McCullagh read veterinary medicine at Bristol University, then went to the United States for four years as a research scientist. He spent another six years lecturing on veterinary pathology at Bristol before being headhunted to be head of biology at the British arm of US drugs group G.D. Searle.

In British Biotech's early days he enjoyed a reputation as a good communicator, but he is reputed to have become more autocratic over the years. Rows with staff were not uncommon. Earlier this month, in order to allow himself more time to concentrate on addressing the problems at British Biotech, he stepped down as chairman of the Government's working group on the financing of hi-tech companies.

Allegations and rebuttals

Allegation: The company failed to disclose accurately progress in getting marketing approval for Zacetax.

Rebuttal: All public statements were factually accurate and reflected reasonable expectations at the time they were made.

Allegation: There is no proof that Zacetax might be effective.

Rebuttal: This allegation is not valid on the basis of current information.

Allegation: No proper disclosure of an inquiry by the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

Rebuttal: The company was

informed of an SEC non-public inquiry in October 1996 and was asked to co-operate "which it has done".

Allegation: The company is spending too much on a sales operation.

Rebuttal: 50 per cent of expenditure is on research and development. Only 4 per cent of employees are in commercial functions.

Allegation: A London Stock Exchange investigation into British Biotech has been reopened.

Rebuttal: The company is co-operating fully.

Allegation: A report on the allegations involving insider dealing and the SEC inquiry is being withheld.

Rebuttal: The report was commissioned privately, never completed and the law firm does not want it published.

Dr Andrew Millar

DR ANDREW Millar, sacked by British Biotech for alleged misconduct, is said to have been on a collision course with Dr McCullagh for some time.

A series of rows between the men is reported to have aggravated further by the recent appointment of a Swedish scientist in a new post above him.

Dr Millar joined British Biotech in 1992, following five years spent in Japan — he is now fluent in Japanese — with the American drugs company, Marion Merrell Dow.

He established the British Biotech company's clinical research team and quickly became a popular and highly

regarded figure, especially with more junior colleagues.

Despite the furore, Dr Millar still harbours ambitions to return to his job, if a new board of directors were to be appointed.

Last night, he said the departure of Keith McCullagh "opens up that window again for me".

Despite the pressures of the past month, he said: "The last three or four weeks have been a very difficult and harrowing time."

"My wife and I have not slept, with the threat of litigation and everything else. And I don't know what this does to my employability. I never expected that I would end up being fired."

He said he had not yet decided whether to take British Biotech to an industrial tribunal for unfair dismissal, but was taking legal advice.

Minister urges public to become fashion rebels

Supermarkets commended for defying designer label mark-ups

Rupert Jones

A GOVERNMENT minister yesterday urged consumers to get tough with companies which charge inflated prices for designer goods.

Consumer affairs minister Nigel Griffiths said consumers were "paying through the nose" for designer clothes and other top-brand goods.

He commended supermarkets for "chipping away" at foreign manufacturers which tried to make British consumers pay more for goods than counterparts in some markets were charged.

US firms were particularly guilty of this practice, he added.

Earlier this month, Tesco fired the latest salvo in its war against the big brand names by selling Ralph Lauren and Polo clothing at less than half the usual price.

In January, Tesco cut the price of Nike sports goods by up to 60 per cent, and it has

also reduced prices on Levi jeans, Adidas wear, Sony PlayStations and camcorders, and Calvin Klein underwear.

Asda has been discounting top-brand perfumes, and Sainsbury last month cut 510 off the cost of the official England football strip.

The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, has asked the European Commission to investigate why Europeans pay much more for everyday purchases than Americans, but Mr Griffiths said the British public had to play its part.

"Consumers have got to show it is high on their agenda. One of the key reasons goods are cheaper in America is that consumers are much more assertive of their rights. American consumers will ruthlessly shop at another store to get five cents off."

The competition bill going through Parliament proposes swift investigations and heavy fines for businesses which abuse their dominant position in the market-place.

● The competition bill could threaten newspapers' profitability by allowing supermarkets to sell discounted newspapers, according to Tory trade spokesman John Redwood yesterday, writes Anne Perkins.

"The whole structure of the newspaper industry is up in the air and we have a bunch of ministers who won't say what the bill is for," Mr Redwood claimed at a news conference launching what he promised would be a series of detailed attacks on the bill.

He warned that the bill could end newspaper delivery and the recommended cover price, threaten distribution agreements and price promotions for newspapers.

Trade and industry minister Ian McCartney called Mr Redwood's comments "totally unfounded".

Mr McCartney noted that the National Federation of Retail Newsagents had welcomed the bill.

"Under the Tories, 2,931 newsagents were forced to close because Mr Redwood and his colleagues were too busy fighting themselves to fight the corner of newsagents."



A CUSTOMER looks for a bargain at the Clapham Junction Asda in London.

Yesterday the supermarket chain renewed its offensive against the price of over-the-counter medicines with a campaign to shame drug firms into scrapping resale price maintenance.

The RPM allows firms to set the price for their products at retail outlets. Asda

is putting up posters in its stores accusing the pharmaceutical groups of "ripping off" customers by adding £180 million to medicine costs.

The first drugs group in Asda's sights is Novartis Consumer Health, which distributes Savlon, Asda's brand of hand disinfectant.

Wound Wash, which is covered by

the RPM and sold at £2.25, whereas its own-brand antiseptic, which is not covered by the agreement, can be sold at whatever price the store wishes.

Asda argues that retailers should decide prices of products they sell. The campaign comes as a committee of MPs

PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEAVER

Insurer sued over impotence pill

Mark Tran in New York

SIX weeks after its tumultuous launch, the impotence drug Viagra is about to star in its first lawsuit.

Paul Sibley-Schreiber, a 51-year-old substance abuse counsellor, is suing his health insurance company for refusing to pay for Viagra. He claims Oxford Health Plans is "limiting my sex life".

His lawyers say his suit may be widened to include dozens of other insurance companies that have denied or restricted coverage of Viagra. The little blue pill costing \$10 has become one of the most widely prescribed new drugs and has surpassed all expectations at Pfizer. Even

After battling diabetes for 25 years, Mr Sibley-Schreiber was left impotent about five years ago. He has tried penile injections and suppositories with little success. Viagra, by contrast, has been a godsend, he says. "With Viagra, I can go all night," he said. "The other two options were often painful."

He said Oxford was perfectly willing to cover the other treatments — enough to give an erection to the entire Russian army. And at first it paid for his prescription for 30 50-milligram tablets. But when he asked for a prescription for 100-milligram pills, Oxford refused.

The lawsuit claims that Oxford wrongly denied benefits for a prescription drug that is "medically necessary".

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.537	Germany 2.224	Malaysia 9.12	Singapore 2.81
Austria 19.94	Greece 491.82	Netherlands 3.165	South Africa 8.08
Belgium 38.20	Hong Kong 12.24	New Zealand 2.95	Spain 228.25
Canada 2.29	India 65.70	Norway 11.89	Sweden 12.38
Cyprus 0.83	Ireland 1.224	Portugal 288.35	Switzerland 2.345
Denmark 10.80	Israel 5.93	Saudi Arabia 5.59	Turkey 386.450
Finland 6.829	Italy 2.803		USA 1.5507
France 6.44			

Sourced by NatWest (including rupee, shekel and yen)

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The Guardian Wednesday May 20 1998

Racing

Hard going for Eddery

Chris Hawkins on another confusing Derby trial outcome

WITH Aidan O'Brien leaving six in Saturday's Irish 2,000 Guineas and Hamdan Al-Maktoum's second-string Rabah winning the Tote Predominate Stakes at Goodwood yesterday, confusion is the word that best sums up the classic scene at the moment.

Confusion and, possibly from a jockey's perspective, persecution as Pat Eddery was penalised by the stewards for trying too hard on Rabah.

Eddery was banned for three days, starting May 28, for excessive use of the whip but it was his inspired drive which got the colt home from the favourite Mutamam, who carried Hamdan's first colours.

Rules are rules but this was one of those cases when a jockey does not stop to think about possible infringement, being totally focused on getting to the winning post first. Eddery hit Rabah 12 times inside the final quarter-mile and got a response each time; it was a power finish which made all the difference.

Eddery had made virtually all the running, although he was badly headed before the two-furlong pole by Pegnitz,



Holding action... Rabah (far side) is too strong for Mutamam in the Predominate Stakes at Goodwood. PHOTO: ALLSPORT

to China Red, who became the second promoted winner of the day after Adjutant in the Chichester Festival Theatre Handicap, in which Young Josh gained a narrow verdict but was disqualified for bumping at the furlong marker.

There is no betting as yet on the Irish 2,000 Guineas on Saturday which is hardly surprising in view of O'Brien's

blanket entry. As well as King Of Kings, Second Empire and Saratoga Springs he has Brianconi, Chateau Royal and Countess in the race.

At Goodwood this afternoon the feature event is the Tripleprint Handicap. Only eight go to post and they do not look a particularly talented bunch, although another Fantasy would be the strict form choice after finishing seventh to Cape Verdi in the 1,000 Guineas.

It would be a considerable compliment to that filly if another Fantasy were to win this but I prefer the maiden winner Mondscheln (3.10) from the Dunlop stable.

Mondscheln was a decisive winner at Sandown recently over 10 furlongs and will certainly not fall through lack of stamina.

Silvering is an interesting runner in the Doubleprint Handicap. Eddery (now replaced by Kieran Fallon) did not shine on this six-year-old at Chester last time but from the way he ran that day the switch back from seven to six furlongs may not suit.

Repertory (2.40), more of a true sprinter, is the selection following his close second to Divine Miss-P at Bath.

Kelso National Hunt card

2.00	3.00	4.00	5.00
Frederick Chance	Country O'Clock	Supreme Soviet	Wider Lead
Black Ice	Wider Lead	Ordering Man	Wider Lead
Black Ice	Wider Lead	Ordering Man	Wider Lead
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Worcester (N.H.) runners and riders

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Goodwood with form guide

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SPORTS NEWS 13

Goodwood with form guide

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Football

Kendall begs for Everton backing

Ian Ross

EVERTON seemed close to embracing grand farce yet again yesterday when their manager Howard Kendall appealed for someone within a seemingly divided boardroom to confirm his job was safe.

Although Kendall spent several hours discussing Everton's immediate future with his chairman Peter Johnson on Monday, he emerged from the meeting without having received the traditional vote of confidence.

Aware that the ambitious Leicester City manager, Martin O'Neill, is already being touted as his possible successor, Kendall urged someone — indeed anyone — in authority at Goodison Park to either confirm or deny the mounting speculation.

"I cannot kill off this speculation... It is up to someone from the club itself to do that."

"If there is any truth in all these rumours, I would like to think I would be the first to be told. I had an amicable meeting with my chairman and he gave me no indication that he wanted a managerial change," he added.

"Typically, Kendall was honest enough to concede that he was not in the least bit surprised that O'Neill had been linked with his job."

"Martin is a top-class manager and if any club which has had a disappointing season is looking to replace someone then he would be a popular choice," he said.

Similarly, Johnson will not be surprised that O'Neill has been placed on Sheffield Wednesday's shortlist.

Although the Yorkshire club do not expect to name a replacement for Ron Atkinson for at least another 10 days, O'Neill enjoys a healthy

level of support inside the Hillsborough boardroom.

As Kendall awaits news of his fate, he continues to build for next season. If his assistant Adrian Heath is lured away to manage First Division Sheffield United, Kendall will probably seek to install the veteran former Liverpool striker Ian Rush on his coaching staff.

Rush was released by Newcastle United earlier this week and is anxious to begin the transformation from player to manager.

The Rangers defender Alex Cleland yesterday agreed to join Everton on a free transfer this summer and Kendall is likely to make a £3 million offer for the Bolton midfielder Alan Thompson, who is also linked with Tottenham, within the next 24 hours.

"All I am doing, all I can do, is get on with my job," said Kendall. "I am planning for pre-season and for next season."

The Newcastle chief executive Freddie Fletcher yesterday attempted to defuse criticism of the club's dreadful

season when he said: "We must not let it happen again."

Fletcher pledged his support to the manager Kenny Dalglish but added: "There's no point in denying it has been an absolutely disastrous season. We need to work extremely hard this summer and give Kenny a lot more physical support in his efforts to pull things around."

Tottenham yesterday defended an increase of up to 12 per cent in season-ticket prices for next season. The club blamed the increase on the rising costs of players and the redevelopment of White Hart Lane. Prices at Spurs, who narrowly avoided relegation from the Premiership, are up by between 8-12 per cent with the most expensive ticket now costing £710.

Bolton supporters will find First Division football more expensive than Premiership soccer. Their club announced a £1 increase in match-day admission to compensate for an expected trading loss of around £3 million following relegation.

Liverpool have won the Premiership's Fair Play award for the fourth consecutive year. The award is based on the number of red and yellow cards received as well as the team's general attitude towards officials and opponents.

The Anfield club will receive £30,000 to give to an FA-approved charity and Blackburn, recipients of the Fair Play award for supporters, get £20,000.

● Sky yesterday signed an agreement with the Scottish Football Association to screen Scotland's home matches. The four-year deal gives the broadcaster the rights to Scotland's qualifying games for the 2002 World Cup, the 2002 World Cup and the Scottish Cup.

Hammers want talks with Lama

WEST HAM have denied reports that their France goalkeeper Bernard Lama has already re-signed for Paris St-Germain, who had claimed that the man

was a PSG player was back in a revamped squad for next season.

But the London club admitted that they are anxious to talk to Lama, who expects to be named soon in France's final 22-man World Cup squad, before his current contract expires on June 30.

Fans' group at odds with Government over tickets

THE Football Supporters' Association yesterday advised English fans to ignore Government warnings not to travel to France without World Cup tickets — and then announced a sponsorship deal that will help them to run a mobile embassy during the tournament.

The main supporters group dismissed a blanket ban as "unrealistic" and said it would advise supporters on the pitfalls of buying tickets on the black market. The Government, meanwhile, is to spend £1 million on a television advertising campaign advising ticketless fans to stay at home.

The FSA, which ran an embassy in Britain during Euro 96 to help visiting fans, is this summer running a minibus, sponsored by MasterCard, that will follow England supporters around France giving advice and linking with the local authorities and on match days up to 10 volunteers will mingle with fans.

It defended its stance yesterday at a press conference in the same central London football theme bar where the Home Secretary Jack Straw

delivered his message to fans earlier this year that they should not go to France without a ticket. Kevin Miles, an FSA spokesman, said: "I don't think our role is to act as a ticket agency but we will give people advice about what the dangers are."

"But at the same time any advice that we could give would be undermined if we gave the impression that there was no such thing as a black-market ticket, as we are a minority of football fans who use football as a focus for organising violence. I think the police have got that situation under control."

British Transport Police have announced unprecedented co-operation with the French authorities in an attempt to head off potential trouble. British uniformed officers will work alongside their French counterparts on French soil for the first time to try and prevent trouble from rising using the Channel Tunnel.

Officers will travel on Eurostar services from London's Waterloo station to Paris or Lille. They will be able to arrest troublemakers while the trains are in France, before handing them over to the French court system.

A Home Office spokesman yesterday repeated the "no ticket, don't travel" advice to fans.

"I am sure there will be black-market tickets floating around but there's no guarantee that supporters will get into the match. They're taking a risk and they could lose their money and miss the game."

The FA spokesman Steve Double declined to criticise the FSA's stance.



Back to front... Real's Morientes, doubtful with a hamstring injury, shields the ball from Dani in training

SHAWN PETROWIC

European Cup final: Juventus v Real Madrid

Raul carries Real threat

David Lacey in Amsterdam

ALL too often matches that are made of sufferer raw nerves, but it is hard to believe Juventus and Real Madrid will fail to produce a game to satisfy expectations when they meet in the Amsterdam Arena tonight.

The contestants are well cast, the plot well-honed. Juventus, the modern masters of European football, will be seeking to restore that status following their surprising defeat by Borussia Dortmund in Munich in last season's final.

Real, who wrote the original script, will hope to reawaken the spirit of their early triumphs in the European Cup, which they held for five years from its inauguration in the mid-Fifties.

The multinational make-up of each team will make this a World Cup trailer, except that Frenchman will be against Frenchman, Italian against Italian and Dutchman against Dutchman. Brazil and Argentina, moreover, will be on the same side.

Alessandro Del Piero can win the final for Juventus. Raul, the 20-year-old striker on whom the hopes of Real this evening and Spain next month will largely rest, especially if

of blows for Real that Brazil will be anticipating as they defend their title.

So much depends on the form and mood of Zinedine Zidane, as important a creative force for Juventus as he is for France. But Real will trust that Clarence Seedorf proves the equal of his fellow Dutchman Edgar Davids, whose arrival from Milan in mid-season has done so much to kick-start Juventus after some indifferent displays in the group matches.

Juventus look a different proposition from the team beaten 3-2 by Manchester United at Old Trafford on October 1. Not only has the inspired bustle of Davids been added to the midfield and Philipp Tzschegg is no longer the wispy striker who bounced so easily off Gary Pallister.

At one point the combination of Inzaghi and Del Piero, which had succeeded the weightier partnership of Alessandro Del Piero and Roberto Carlos, did not appear to have the staying power to lead Juventus to their third successive Champions League final.

Now the Juventus pair may be out to outpace Raul, the 20-year-old striker on whom the hopes of Real this evening and Spain next month will largely rest, especially if

Fernando Morientes is kept out by a hamstring injury.

If Raul can break the barren spell which has seen him score only twice for his club since January 3, then Real's chances of winning European club football's biggest prize for the first time since 1966 will be stronger in reality than they appear in prospect.

For the fact is that whereas Juventus are fresh from celebrating another Italian league championship, Real have to win tonight's opener to the Champions League, as holders.

While Juventus's coach Marcello Lippi has moved from one success to another since he was appointed in the summer of 1994, Jupp Heynckes, his equivalent at the Bernabeu, is facing dis-

missal after Real's failure to occupy one of the top two places in the Spanish league.

What better city to witness a Real revival than Amsterdam for it was here, in the Olympic Stadium, that they lost a European Cup final for the first time. The meeting of Real and Benfica in 1962 remains one of the great classics and is best remembered for Ferenc Puskas scoring a hat-trick and still finishing on the losing side, the Portuguese champions winning 5-3.

The team of Heynckes cannot afford the approach of their illustrious predecessors, who cared little about conceding goals because they were usually blessed with the means to score more. Real know that should Juventus take an early lead, the game will probably be up.

A tactical stalemate would be disappointing but the longer the final remains scoreless the more mutual caution may take over. Should there be extra time the first goal, if any, will be the winner.

Among those not having their Kingsholm contracts renewed are Raphael Saint-Amand, brother of the more famous Philippe, and the New Zealander Andrew Gibbs, along with the backs Alex Morris, David Lloyd and Martin Roberts. The club and Andy Stanley is to stop playing and will take up a coaching post.

Gloucester's director of rugby Richard Hill wants to make room for new arrivals who are expected to include Simon Mannix, although Hill stressed that although fly-half Mark Mapletoft will not be leaving the club.

The former Australia captain and hooker Phil Kearns, 39, ends a three-year wait to win his 50th cap when the Wallabies take on England in the Brisbane Test on June 6.

The selectors have also gambled on the ACT full-back Stephen Larkham at fly-half, where he has played only 20 minutes of senior rugby, allowing Matt Burke to return as the last line of defence.

Saracens' centre Philippe Sella will link with three members of France's Grand Slam team when he captains a World XV against Newcastle for the Saracens Cup at Twickenham on Saturday.

After three days in front, the Swiss rider Alex Zülle yesterday handed the Giro d'Italia pink jersey to the Ukrainian Sergei Gontchar. The Italian Michele Bartoli, 19, nine seconds further back, won his compatriot Nicola Minali, the first three places in yesterday's 196km stage.

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World Cup round-up

Threats to players

Patrick Glenn

SCOTLAND'S World Cup squad leave for New York today for a weekend game against Colombia, players who are in fear of their lives.

Faustino Asprilla, who left Newcastle last season to return to Parma, is so concerned by death-threat phone calls to his team-mate Victor Hugo Aristizabal and the national coach Hernan Dario Gomez that he has said he will not play if Aristizabal is forced out of the team.

Such threats are taken very seriously following the murder of the defender Andres Escobar after he had scored an own goal in the 2-1 defeat by the United States that put Colombia out of the 1994 World Cup in the first phase.

"I'm tired of the threats," said Asprilla in Bogota. "What kind of country do we live in? We try to make people happy. But this is the only country in the world where footballers are constantly getting death threats."

Gomez, however, is sticking to his schedule and taking the squad to New York tomorrow where they face the Scots in New Jersey's Giants Stadium on Saturday night local time.

Nor has Aristizabal been intimidated. The striker confirmed he had received the death calls on Monday and now has 24-hour police protection. "I never thought for a moment about resigning from the team," he said. "I am proud to be Colombian."

Against Colombia the Scots will be a sounding-board for England's World Cup prospects as well as their own. Glenn Hoddle's side are due to meet the South Americans in their final group match, in Lima, on June 26.

Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, had only one minor fitness problem when his squad met in Glasgow yesterday. Andy Goram, the Rangers goalkeeper, aggravated a hamstring injury in last Saturday's Scottish Cup final defeat by Hearts and was unable to train.

Injury to Nigeria's first-choice goalkeeper Shorunmu of FC Zurich has led to the call up of Crewe Alexandra's Ademola Bankole for a pre-World Cup training session in Switzerland.

But the prospects of Arsenal's French trio of Patrick Vieira, Emmanuel Petit and Nicolas Anelka, and Chelsea's Frank Leboeuf getting a late call into their country's squad do not look good. The France coach Aimé Jacquet said: "I've had my final 22 in my head for some time and there's no way a sudden flash will change it."

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of blows for Real that Brazil will be anticipating as they defend their title. So much depends on the form and mood of Zinedine Zidane, as important a creative force for Juventus as he is for France. But Real will trust that Clarence Seedorf proves the equal of his fellow Dutchman Edgar Davids, whose arrival from Milan in mid-season has done so much to kick-start Juventus after some indifferent displays in the group matches.

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Anderlecht's bribe ban lifted

ANDERLECHT will compete in next season's UEFA Cup after a 12-month ban imposed for bribing the referee in their semi-final against Nottingham Forest in 1994 was overturned in Lausanne yesterday.

The Court of Arbitration of Sport, a tribunal set up by the International Olympic Committee, ruled that UEFA's executive committee which had imposed the suspension

was not qualified to make such a decision. Cases of corruption should be handled by UEFA's judicial committee, the CAS said.

"I think there's a very small chance of a focus for organising violence. I think the police have got that situation under control."

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Team talk

The independent news and reports service

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The Guardian INTERACTIVE

Rugby League

Defiant Gregory threatens to quit

Andy Wilson

ANDY GREGORY yesterday reacted defiantly to a disciplinary summons from the Rugby League, insisting: "I'm not going to let certain individuals drive me out of the game."

The former Great Britain scrum-half and current Salford coach has been ordered to explain himself after being caught on Sky TV apparently mouthing an obscenity about the referee Steve Ganson during Sunday's Super League defeat by Sheffield.

Gregory, who has a suspended fine of £1,500 hanging over him from last season for comments about another referee, Bob Connolly, after a game at Leeds, said: "I'm totally dismayed with the game, and this morning I was ready to quit for good."

"There is no doubt in my mind that I am being singled out for special treatment, and because certain people don't like the way I speak my mind. But I'm not going to let those people force me to quit. I've only done what hundreds of football players and managers, and loads of other rugby people, have done, and that's say something to myself."

Gregory was even less impressed to hear of his summons from the Salford media manager and was still waiting last night for an official approach to confirm the date of a hearing. "I'm going to consult my solicitors, but there's no way I'll be paying any fine," he added.

His mood was not improved by the loss of Scott Naylor for possibly six weeks because of a hamstring injury. But David Bradbury could return for Sunday's game against London Broncos at The Stoop.

Meanwhile the League unexpectedly decided not to bring a dispute charge against Hull Kingston Rovers' coach Dave Harrison for calling referee Ron Laughton "a clown" after his team's defeat at Widnes. Castleford's international prop Dean Sampson also escaped punishment, having been placed on report for an incident in last Sunday's defeat at Warrington.

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Rugby League
Defiant
Gregory
threatens
to quit

Athletics

Pascoe risk in riding to the rescue

Duncan Mackay on a promised new image for top British meetings

ALAN PASCOE, looking to rescue British athletics from financial turmoil as its new commercial partner, yesterday unveiled innovative plans for staging and promoting four domestic televised meetings over the next four years.

The former Olympic hurdler, whose sponsorship company helped raise £30 million for the sport in the golden years of the 80s, has set up a new company, Fast Track, to run the meetings on behalf of UK Athletics '98, the organisation currently running the sport after the British Athletic Federation became insolvent last October with debts of almost £2 million.

Pascoe has promised to make the events more aggressively and to make them more entertaining. "There will be fewer events per meeting," he said. "There has to be if they are to be presented more dynamically and choreographed better. It is clear that the sport has an image problem which needs solving."

The meetings involved are the BUPA Games at Gateshead on July 19, a Grand Prix grade-two event, the combined BUPA AAA Championships and Commonwealth Games Trials in Birmingham on July 24-26, the British Grand Prix at Sheffield on August 2, and the SPAR British Challenge in Glasgow on August 30, when Britain are due to meet a team from the United States.

They will be televised live by Channel 4, hosted by Steve Cram, Sally Gunnell and Nigel Walker, and there will also be 12 half-hour magazine programmes in Sunday lunchtime slots.

Pascoe will stake part of his considerable personal wealth of £20 million in the project. On Monday he received £5 million for the remaining 40 per cent of his shares in APL, the sponsorship company he founded in 1994.

"There is a reputation risk, having stepped out from Europe's most prestigious sponsorship company," he admitted. "If this does not work, people will say that he's not as good as we thought. I am underwriting the company and there is a risk of losing money. If it goes wrong, I will be back in my garden."

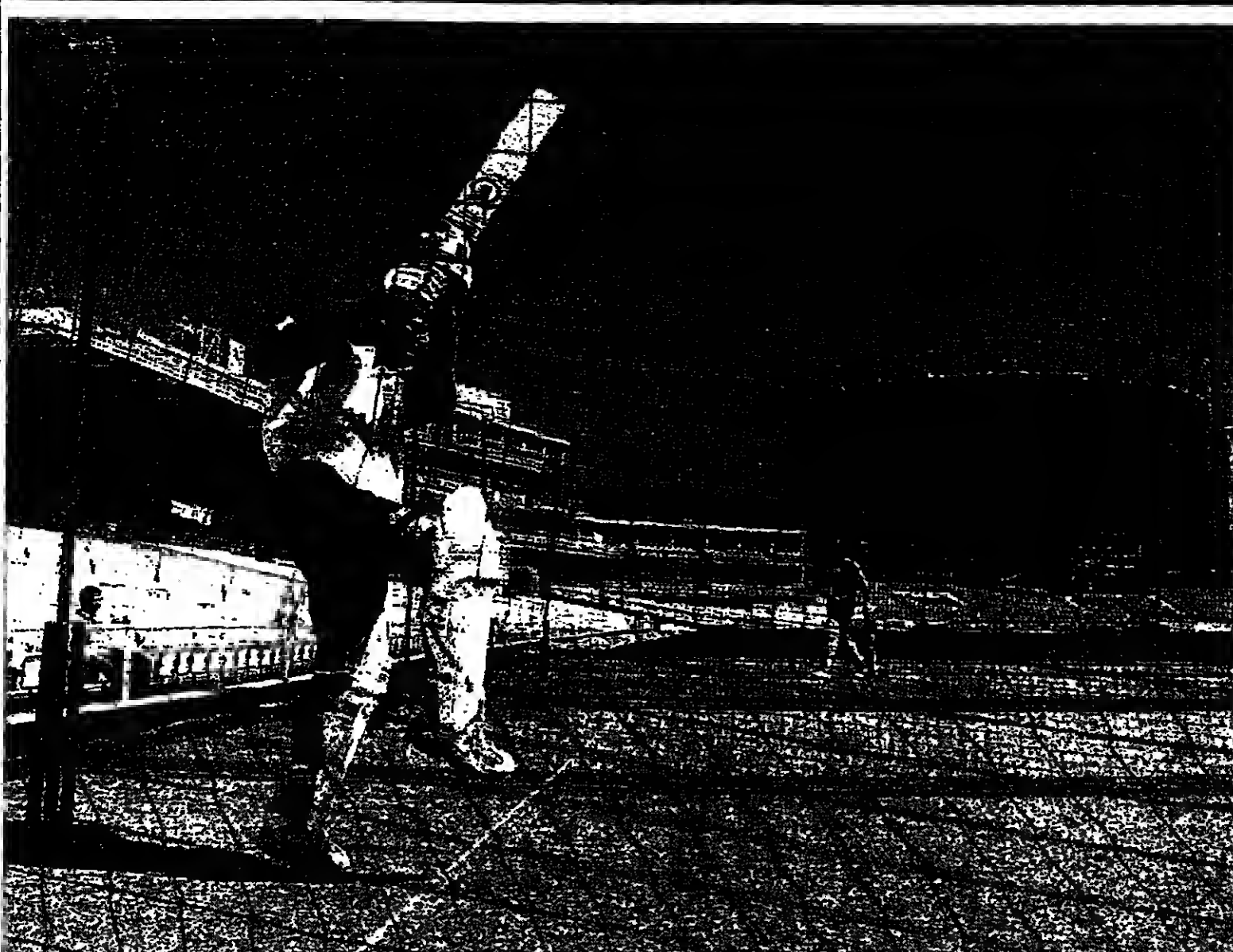
UK Athletics will retain control of the meetings, having bought the rights for £400,000 from the administrators in charge of the BAF's affairs. The sale was completed using money from the sport's biggest sponsors, the kit company Reebok. Fast Track will not only raise sponsorship for the meetings but also organise them on a non-profit basis.

The final agreement was reached only when the Amateur Athletic Association of England agreed to waive their rights to any profits from the next two years so that the money can be ploughed back into British athletics.

"We go into this on complete trust," said Geoff Clarke, the AAA treasurer, "because we know it could make or break the sport."

David Moorcroft, the chief executive of UK Athletics, added: "After a very difficult six months this positive announcement takes us one more step towards a stronger, more robust future. We hope Alan's company will develop the British meetings into one of the most popular series in Europe."

One-day wonders



Gas industry... the Warwickshire batsman Nick Knight struts his stuff for England in the nets at The Oval yesterday

Gough back on fast track

Paul Weaver finds an exciting bowler fired up to face South Africa tomorrow

THERE was more deep faith and bushy-tailed hope on view at The Oval yesterday than one would expect to find in Eileen Drewery's surgery.

As England's one-day squad prepared for the Texaco Trophy series against South Africa, which starts tomorrow, Darren Maddy and Chris Adams were the excited and ambitious newcomers, Chris Lewis the practised prodigy.

No one, however, has greater hope invested in him than England's fastest bowler — if Devon Malcolm is never going to be a prodigy again.

He will be paired with Lewis in response to the need for greater penetration in England's one-day attack and yesterday the emotional Yorkshireman, who has suffered hamstring problems and had knee surgery, admitted he was in tears when ruled out of the start of last winter's tour of the West Indies.

"The day I found out was heartbreaking. My wife, Anna Marie, was there. I was very upset. But I had to accept it. The fact that I was always trying to get fit to join the tour kept me going."

"The other upsetting day was when everyone departed and I was left at home. That hurt and it's something I

don't dwell on. And it kept coming back when I saw others bowling on TV. If I'd been there Gus Fraser might not have played! But he bowled beautifully and I phoned him up and told him so."

"I never did make the tour but it was great when David Graveney and Lord MacLaurin visited my hospital bed in Nottingham in January, just two hours after I had come

round, and told me to keep going and get fit. "It feels great to be back in international cricket. It would have disappointed me if I'd been left out of these matches and kept back for the Tests."

"Now the weather is warmer and the knee-brace is off. Having the winter off might have done me the world of good because I'm feeling fresh, doing plenty of batting and bowling in the nets and I'm not taking painkillers, which 50 per cent of bowlers do."

"I'm still young, at 27, and

reckon I'm at my peak. I don't feel unlucky. In fact I think I'm lucky. Fast bowlers get injured, it's a fact of life. I've been out for nine months, which is the longest I have missed."

"But I keep coming back and I've played nearly 60 times for my country, in Tests and one-dayers. I want 200 wickets in Tests. And I must have a chance against Australia in the winter. I have a good strike rate against them. And no one will stop me giving 100 per cent."

"There has often been a sameness about England's

Selectors Gooch and Graveney take charge of Ashes tour after anger at winter team choices

AFTER what was seen as an insubordination from the player-dominated selection panels on tour in the Caribbean last winter, the England selectors, David Gooch and Graham Gooch, will take over the reins of team management next winter in Australia, writes Mike Selvey.

Naturally, given the current fashion to split the two forms of the game, Gooch will be in charge of the three series, and Graveney will take over for the one-day tournament that follows.

Differences emerged between the selectors who chose the tour squad and

those who chose the sides in the West Indies — in the case of the Test team, Mike Atherton, the England coach David Lloyd and the vice-captain Nasser Hussain, and in the one-dayers Adam Hildreth, Lloyd and Graham Thorpe — who had no vote when either touring party was chosen.

Specifically, there was discord over the treatment of Mark Ramprakash who, in the last winter, when the selectors, travelled to West Indies as a first-choice Test batsman but found himself so far down the pecking order he did not play for the first seven weeks.

Rumour had it at the time that Graveney, Gooch and Mike Gatting, powerless to intervene, were fuming. Hitherto, the tour manager has not had an official vote in selection. That situation ought to change this winter.

Gooch has no experience of managing the senior England side, but was regarded as an efficient manager of the A tour to Kenya and Sri Lanka last winter, when the third selector, Gatting, was coach. Graveney managed the successful trip to Sharjah last December and took the A tour to Australia the previous winter.



Gough... return from injury

attack. Gough is the bowler most likely to offer something different. He can be sharp, if not genuinely fast, and there is swing — reverse swing, too. He also has the ability to lift colleagues with his personality as well as his performances.

Adams, having never played for England or England A, is the one complete debutant in the 14-man squad. He has been in outstanding form with his new county Sussex this season, with three centuries in all cricket, plus 81 and 54.

Yesterday he revealed he had received a phone call from his old Derbyshire captain Dean Jones in Melbourne. Adams gives credit to Jones and the then Derbyshire coach Les Stillingman for revitalising his batting two years ago.

"Dean who gave me what he called crease management, which is about occupying the crease, being relaxed but very focused and mentally tough."

The first player at The Oval yesterday, irony of ironies, was Lewis, who found employment in trouble with Ray Illingworth, the then chairman of selectors, at the same ground when he turned up late for a Test against Pakistan.

"I'm not going to take about last chances," he said. "I've been having last chances since I was 22."

Tour match

Kent v South Africans

Tourists step on the gas

Mike Selvey at Canterbury

THERE has often been a bit of psychology involved in drawing up tour itineraries. Lull the visitors a bit, and then hit them when they have been suitably seduced.

So England's Caribbean tour, for instance, would consist of some nice islands and a few beaches before they disappeared into the harsher reality of Kingston, Port of Spain and Georgetown.

South Africa's brief warm-up before the one-day international, and the Test series that follow appears to have been following an English Heritage Cathedrals 'o Castles tour: a resounding three-day win by the banks of the Severn at Worcester followed by Sunday's irrelevant doddle at Arundel and yesterday another flexing of the muscles in the sunshine here. The gas-holders at The Oval tomorrow are going to look mighty strange after all that.

Kent, as is the case all too frequently with county matches against touring teams, were holding a shadow side: seven regular first-team players were missing for a variety of reasons ranging from England commitments (Mark Ealham and Matthew Strain — enthusiastic groin strain) — Steve Marsh and Ben Phillips — and a need to rest weary limbs in the case of Carl Hooper, Alan Wells and Dean Headley.

Headley, in particular, one would have thought, might have been keen to prove something if only that his no-ball problem is on the mend. A generous crowd (4,000) must be a record for a Second XI fixture, witnessed a one-sided affair. Having been asked to bat first, South Africa paced their innings nicely, scoring 80 during the first 15 overs and expanding that to a 60-over total of 290 for seven, the main contributions coming from Gerhardus Liebenberg, whose 72 continues the early form that puts pressure on Adam Bache for an opening spot. Jacques Kallis (51 from 70 balls), Daryll Cullinan (48 from 54 balls), and 64 in only 45 balls from the captain Hansie Cronje.

Kent stood little chance of making much impression although David Fulton and Robert Key, in his first one-day match for the county, set about things in the appropriate manner with an opening partnership of 65 in 15 overs. Key in particular showed himself to be no respecter of reputations.

He was 19 only last week and a member of the England team who won the Under-19 World Cup in South Africa last winter. Presumably he got a sight of Lance Klusener and Allan Donald while there, but it seemed not to faze him as he stepped inside both and clumped them wholeheartedly through the off side.

Before he was bowled, having agriculturally at Pat Symcox, he had scored 54 from 65 balls with five fours and a six lifted over extra cover. Thereafter the South African bowlers picked off the innings much as they pleased. Symcox, with three for 41, was the chief beneficiary and victory by 96 runs came with more than five overs in hand.

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Scoreboard

AXA League	
Nottinghamshire v Northamptonshire	
Nottinghamshire	222
Northamptonshire	100
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Northamptonshire	100
Nottinghamshire	222
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Nottinghamshire	222
Northamptonshire	100

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Every Wednesday in the

The Guardian

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Sports **Guardian****Hoddle offers to put up Gascoigne**England coach throws open his home. **Martin Thorpe reports**

GLENN HODDLE issued the first yellow card of the World Cup yesterday when he warned Paul Gascoigne that any repetition of his recent well-publicised antics and the wayward genius will not be going to France 98. The England coach's attempts to keep the Middlesbrough midfielder out of trouble even included an invitation to Gascoigne to move into his home until the tournament begins.

Hoddle's concern for Gascoigne's drinking and smoking habits had already led to a Monday showdown in which England's most talented player was told "forcefully" to sort himself out.

Basically Gascoigne was informed that he is 40 per cent short of match fitness, has no divine right to a place in the final squad of 22, that his adverse publicity has harmed England's World Cup build-up and that, had he behaved while on England duty as he has recently, he would not be in the squad at all.

After submitting his defence, Gascoigne apologised to the England coach and promised to knock down to win his battle for fitness. Even so Hoddle admitted: "It is disappointing that I have had to have a word with him forcefully, and I've told him that. He knows it. He's apologised and he knows what he now has to do to get in the final 22."

However, Gascoigne showed little public contrition yesterday, downplaying last Thursday's alleged binge with Chris Evans to "a few drinks with Rod Stewart". He responded to questions about a tabloid photograph of another late-night street incident by asking: "How can you be unfit for the World Cup just because you are having a kebab?" He also insisted: "I haven't smoked for seven years," before adding, "I might have had the odd one now and again."

So who knows the truth? The fact is that Hoddle has made clear the consequences of more Gascoigne misdemeanours. "At the end of the day there are set guidelines, and if anyone steps over them they'll be dealt with," said the coach. "Since he's been with me, every England trip, he's never been a problem. Every problem there's been with Paul has been out of international time when he's not under my wing."

"If Paul had stepped out of line under my jurisdiction he would have been hammered a long time ago." And would control his diet and fitness when you've got him. If he's not under my wing I can't control him. You can only try and make him see the situation as you want it. But Paul knows where I'm coming from now. I'm disappointed by what I've seen, and it's up to him to come half way."

The testing time for Gascoigne is likely to be the week of freedom the players are given between the final friendly match and the start of the World Cup.

"The players go home, but they are still on England duty," said Hoddle. "So it will be a good test for Paul, won't it?" And what if Gascoigne gets a phone call that week from his celebrity pals inviting him down the pub? "I

He admitted he saw "Glenn's point why he's upset, because it's maybe going to upset the England camp and it wasn't the right time, and with the World Cup coming up. But," he added, "it is my life. It just has to change when it comes round to big tournaments like this."

And with that simplistic notion of fitness he signed off, saying that all he now wanted was "to help England win the World Cup and prove to everyone that I can still be a decent player — I'll make the final 22."

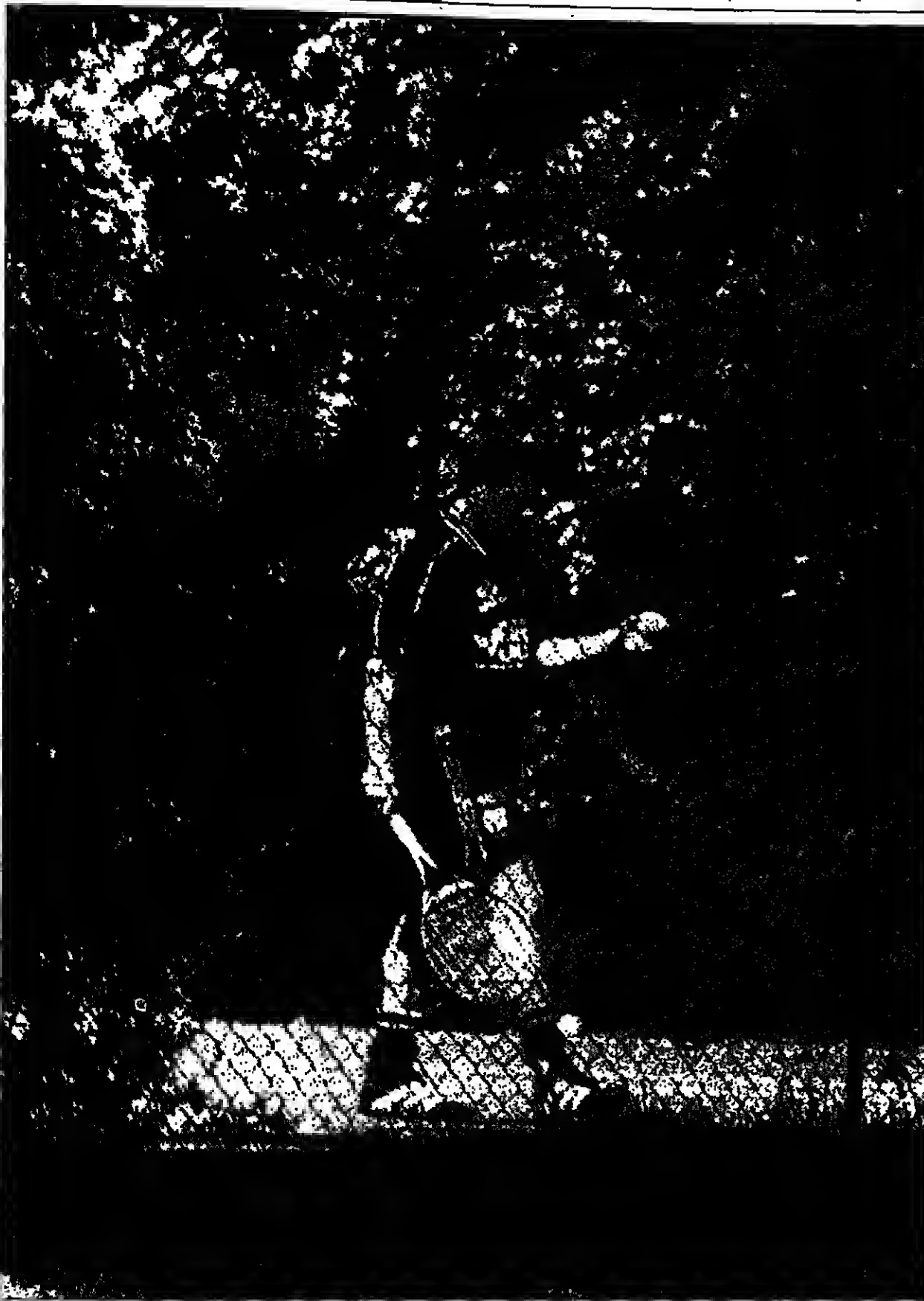
Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, yesterday branded the criticism of Gascoigne as "pathetic" and a "disgrace". Robson, who signed Gascoigne from Rangers for £3 million in March, said: "Ever since I've come involved with England, as soon as the build-up started to the World Cup or the European Championship, the press got a bee in their bonnet about the manager or a particular player."

"It's just as if they don't want their own team to do well. By singling out players, all they are doing is knocking the players' confidence. It's as if they are trying to get Gazza thrown out of the squad. It's pathetic. They always go trying to dredge up some kind of scandal when we are building up to a major championship, instead of getting behind the players and encouraging them."

Robson was also unhappy with the criticism of Gascoigne's smoking habit. "It's pathetic the way they have gone on about his smoking as well. Johan Cruyff smoked but he was one of the best players that the world has ever seen."

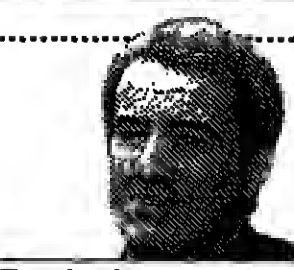
Robson also feels the attacks levelled against the England captain Alan Shearer have been unfair. "They went on about Shearer in the same way but what they won't take into account is that it's a man's game. Why can't we get on with it as a man's game? If this had happened in rugby nothing would have been said about it."

It is disappointing I have had to have a word with him and I've told him that. He's apologised and he knows what he now has to do to get in the final 22

Glenn Hoddle

Away from the racket... Paul Gascoigne escapes the noisy publicity with a quiet game of tennis

WESTLEY HARGRAVE

**Paul Weaver****Portrait of the world's second-Best footballer**

GORGE BEST had reached the final but few people gave him a chance. Because this was snooker, not football or a drinking contest, and his opponent in the seedy, south London hall was much fancied.

Best, who is even hotter on the smaller pool table, recalls with a mischievous grin: "Everyone told me 'Listen, George, the kid's brilliant. He'll murder you.' He should have too. But we played in front of about 30 people and he got nervous. It didn't bother me because I've played in

front of bigger crowds than that. I pissed it."

There is an amusing postscript to all this. When Best was visited by his son Calum, he invited him to take home one of his medals as a souvenir. "There was my European Cup winner's medal, my league championship medal and Northern Ireland momentoes... but no. He went for my snooker trophy. It was such a disappointment! It was big and horrible and made of plastic but it meant a lot to me. It was the only thing I'd won at the game."

It is one of my favourite Best stories and if it cannot be found in Joe Lovejoy's new book it doesn't matter much because many others can.

Best will be signing copies at Dillons in London's Oxford Street tomorrow between 1 and 2pm. If he makes it. He probably will because he is more reliable these days (sometimes) and Joe managed to pin him down to fill nearly 400 pages. All the same it's fortunate the signing session is not on Friday because then he will be having a jar or two to mark his 52nd birthday and his timekeeping may be blurred.

In a recently-unveiled hall of fame Best was judged to be the second greatest footballer to play the game, behind only Pele. Predictably, this provoked discussion. What about

Cruyff, Eusebio and the wonderful Alfredo Di Stefano?

They all graced World Cup finals, a stage Best could only gawp at in his little Northern Ireland shirt. Such a pity about 1970, for he was perhaps at his glittering peak then and soon to carry an ageing and fading Manchester United to the top of the table. For a while.

What we can say with more certainty is that this was the greatest footballer to emerge from these islands, although even here a few stubborn older voices might bang on about Matthews and Finney.

LISTEN to them. Indulge them. Smile at them with sympathetic understanding (being careful not to appear too condescending). And then tell them they are all talking rot. And if they ever try to dismiss Best as a brilliant but fast-passing comet, one who "threw it all away", you should permit yourself a little heated indignation and gently splutter that no, this was not the case; that for a full decade from the early Sixties, and despite all the birds and bees, he was a wonder we had not seen before and will never do so again, a miracle of balance, dribbling, passing, goalscoring and brave tackling.

Best: A Portrait of a Legend by Joe Lovejoy (Macmillan, £16.99)

from training, shaking his head, and declared that Best, despite his lack of inches, was one of the finest natural goalkeepers he had seen at Old Trafford but that it would be a waste to play him there. Well, yes Matt, it would have been, considering he could do everything else.

But he was more than a great footballer. He was the biggest sports star Britain has produced. Bigger than Lester Piggott and Henry Cooper, bigger than Jim Clark and Stirling Moss, bigger than Ian Botham and WG Grace and Seb Coe and Steve Ovett and... anyone you care to mention, although on a global scale he might struggle to square up to Muhammad Ali.

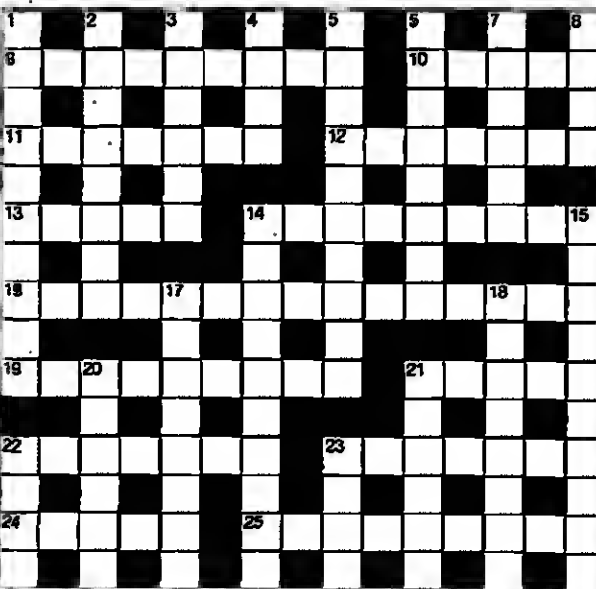
Lovejoy's book describes the darkest of all Best's many days in the shade, Christmas Day 1964 when "he didn't look for presents, he looked for the pail to slop out. He was in Pentonville Prison, jailed for three months for drunken driving, assaulting a policeman and failing to answer bail."

In the court canteen at the appeal George, forgetting his terror, dredged up a watery smile and shrugged: "Well, I suppose that's the knighthood fukka."

Best: A Portrait of a Legend by Joe Lovejoy (Macmillan, £16.99)

Guardian Crossword No 21,279

Set by Janus

**Across**

- 9 Irish member of society with house on island (5)
10 Parisian friend at church in priestly attire (5)
11 A line on Parliament's food allowances (7)
22 Superintendent bishop's position (7)
23 Total Western predicament (5)

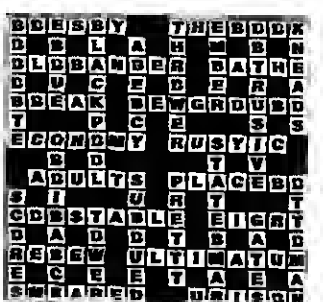
Down

- 1 Post in altercation with man of fashion (10)
2 Imitates what stripper does (5,3)
3 Allied name in silver tea-service (5)
4 Where girl embraces love (4)
5 Plain flag in ruda enclosure? (10)
6 Borrow book on "Gravel"? (5)
7 Fast that is unusual on holiday (5)
8 Part of home rental and nothing more (4)
14 Time to study train condition (5,4)
15 Old form of transport (in team's rickety coach?) (5,5)
17 Any tip for example for a native of Cairo? (5)
18 It's clear perhaps in public performance (5)
20 Novel form of toll in Los Angeles (5)
21 Canoes designed for open waters (5)
22 Reportedly ready to depart from agreement (4)

- 22 Coat for sticky-looking child (7)
23 Tears we find in garment (7)
24 Vestment for an Anglo-Saxon villain, it is said (5)
25 Footballer's villa near collapse (5)

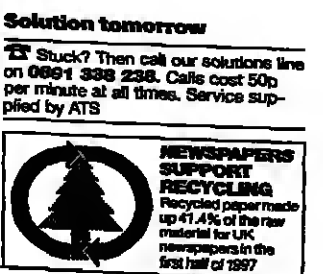
Down

- 1 Post in altercation with man of fashion (10)
2 Imitates what stripper does (5,3)
3 Allied name in silver tea-service (5)
4 Where girl embraces love (4)
5 Plain flag in ruda enclosure? (10)
6 Borrow book on "Gravel"? (5)
7 Fast that is unusual on holiday (5)
8 Part of home rental and nothing more (4)
14 Time to study train condition (5,4)
15 Old form of transport (in team's rickety coach?) (5,5)
17 Any tip for example for a native of Cairo? (5)
18 It's clear perhaps in public performance (5)
20 Novel form of toll in Los Angeles (5)
21 Canoes designed for open waters (5)
22 Reportedly ready to depart from agreement (4)

**Crossword solution 21,278**

23 Hoard lacks a Venetian section (4)

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